

STATE WAIVER REQUEST

1. **Waiver Serial Number (if applicable):** 2150044
2. **Type of request:** Amendment and extension
3. **Statutory citation:** Section 6(o) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008, as amended
4. **Regulatory citation:** 7 CFR 273.24
5. **State:** Maryland
6. **Region:** MARO

7. **Regulatory requirements:**

Section 6(o) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008, as amended, provides that no able-bodied adult without dependents (ABAWD) shall be eligible to participate in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) as a member of any household if the individual received program benefits for more than 3 months during any 3-year period in which the individual was subject to but did not comply with the ABAWD work requirement. Section 6(o) also provides that, upon the request of the State agency, the Secretary may waive the applicability of the 3-month ABAWD time limit for any group of individuals in the State if the Secretary makes a determination that the area in which the individuals reside has an unemployment rate of over 10 percent, or does not have a sufficient number of jobs to provide employment for the individuals.

8. **Description of alternative procedures:**

The State of Maryland is requesting to exempt able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWDs) in 13 counties from the SNAP time limits. These areas are readily approvable under 7 CFR 273.24.

9. **Justification for request:**

Under SNAP regulations at 7 CFR 273.24(f)(2), areas may support a claim of insufficient jobs by submitting evidence that an area has an average unemployment rate for a 24-month time period that exceeds the national average for the same 24-month period by 20 percent. 7 CFR 273.24(f)(6) provides that States may define areas to be waived.

The State of Maryland seeks a waiver for three clusters of counties with average unemployment rates that are twenty percent above the national average for the 24-month period of August 2017 through July 2019. The national average unemployment rate for this 24-month period was 3.9 percent; 20 percent above this threshold was 4.7 percent.

The State of Maryland would like to request a waiver for 9 contiguous counties in Eastern Shore based on having an average unemployment rate of 4.9 percent for the period of August 2017 to July 2019:

Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data August 2017 through July 2019		
Eastern Shore	Unemployed Total	Labor Force Total
Caroline County	16,875	432,200
Cecil County	56,073	1,268,178
Dorchester County	19,603	367,767
Kent County	10,676	245,119
Queen Anne's County	22,358	659,243
Somerset County	15,116	224,336
Talbot County	17,757	468,896
Wicomico County	64,186	1,227,232
Worcester County	49,362	613,697
Combined Area Total	272,006	5,506,668
Combined Area Unemployment Rate	4.9%	
20% Above National Average Threshold	4.7%	

In addition, the State of Maryland would like to request a waiver for 2 counties in the Baltimore Metropolitan Region¹ based on having an average unemployment rate of 5.0 percent for the period of August 2017 to July 2019:

Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data August 2017 through July 2019		
Baltimore Region	Unemployed Total	Labor Force Total
Baltimore City	396,177	6,980,884
Harford County	121,624	3,329,505
Combined Area Total	517,801	10,310,389
Combined Area Unemployment Rate	5.0%	
20% Above National Average Threshold	4.7%	

The State of Maryland would also like to request a waiver for 2 contiguous counties in Western Maryland based on having an average unemployment rate of 5.3 percent for the period of August 2017 to July 2019:

¹ A map of the Baltimore Metropolitan region is available at <http://www.baltometro.org/about-bmc/about-the-region/map/>.

Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data August 2017 through July 2019		
Western Maryland	Unemployed Total	Labor Force Total
Allegany County	42,189	770,389
Garrett County	17,703	368,720
Combined Area Total	59,892	1,139,109
Combined Area Unemployment Rate	5.3%	
20% Above National Average Threshold	4.7%	

10. Anticipated impact on households and State agency operations: This waiver will provide consistency for households and State agency operations in areas where unemployment remains higher than the national average.

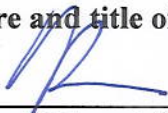
11. Caseload information, including percent, characteristics, and quality control error rate for affection portion (if applicable):
The caseload for these areas, as of July 1, 2019, represent 45% of the caseload for the State. There are no quality control implications for this request.

12. Anticipated implementation date and time period for which waiver is needed:
The State is requesting a one-year waiver, from January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020.

13. Proposed quality control review procedures: There are no special quality control procedures needed in conjunction with this waiver.

14. State agency submitting waiver request and State contact person:
State agency: Maryland Department of Human Services
State contact person: Augustin Ntabaganyimana

15. Signature and title of requesting official:



Name: Netsanet Kibret
Title: Executive Director, Family Investment Administration
Email for transmission of response: netsanet.kibret@maryland.gov

15. Date of request: October 18, 2019

16. State agency staff contact (name/email/telephone):
Name: Augustin Ntabaganyimana
Title: Deputy Executive Director, Family Investment Administration
Email: Augustin.ntabaganyimana@maryland.gov
Phone: 410-767-7571

17. Regional office contact person (*to be completed by FNS regional office*):

Maryland is Requesting a Waiver for 13 Counties in 2020

