

STATE WAIVER REQUEST

1. **Waiver Serial Number (if applicable):**
2. **Type of request:** Extension
3. **Regulatory citation:** 7 CFR 273.24, January 17, 2001 rule (66 FR 4438)
4. **Secondary regulation citation, if any:**
5. **State:** Indiana
6. **Region:** Midwest Region
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 decides 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. **Proposed alternative procedures:** Indiana FSSA/Division of Family Resources (DFR) is requesting an extension of the waiver to exempt residents residing in the entire state from the SNAP time limit at 7 CFR 273.24 under the 2001 rule.
9. **Justification for request:** Under SNAP regulations at 7 CFR 273.24(f)(2), the State may support a claim of insufficient jobs by submitting evidence that the State qualifies for extended unemployment benefits within the past 12 months.

26 USC 3304 (Public Law 102-318) allows States to use a trigger for the extended benefits program, based on the State's not seasonally adjusted insured unemployment rate (IUR) for the most recent 13 weeks reaching at least: (1) 5 percent; and (2) 120 percent of such IUR for the corresponding 13-week periods ending in each of the two preceding calendar years; or (3) 6 percent regardless of the preceding calendar years.

The U.S. Department of Labor notified Indiana on June 5, 2020 that Indiana had triggered for Extended Benefits. This was triggered due to the different periods of high unemployment throughout Indiana. The trigger was activated based on the average of unemployed workers being above 5% for 13 consecutive weeks.

Indiana's seasonally unadjusted unemployment rate for November 2020 is 5.1 percent, a 59 percent increase over November 2019, with 19,919 people in the state filing initial unemployment insurance claims in the eight weeks ending November 28, 2020.

10. Anticipated impact on households and State agency operations:

This waiver will provide consistency for households and State agency operations.

11. Caseload information, including percent, characteristics, and quality control error rate for affection portion (if applicable): This waiver affects the entire state. This waiver will apply to all SNAP applicants and recipients identified as ABAWDs.

12. Anticipated implementation date and time period for which waiver is needed:

The State is requesting an extension of 7 months from March 1, 2021 through September 30, 2021.

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: Indiana FSSA/Division of Family Resources.

15. Signature and title of requesting official:



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16. Date of request: February 10, 2021

17. State agency staff contact (name/email/telephone): David Smalley, David.Smalley@fssa.in.gov, (317) 232-2010

18. FNS Regional office contact person: Jenie Farinas, Ray Prendergast