

STATE WAIVER REQUEST

1. **Waiver Serial Number (if applicable):** 2140013
2. **Type of request:** Initial
3. **Statutory citation:** Section 6(o) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008
4. **Regulatory citation:** 7 CFR 273.24
5. **State:** Montana
6. **Region:** MPRO
7. **Regulatory requirements:** Section 6(o) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 and regulations at 7 CFR 273.24 provide that no individual 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) and 7 CFR 273.24 also provide 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 Montana is requesting a waiver to exempt residents residing in the entire state from the SNAP time limit at 7 CFR 273.24.
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 Department of Labor's Trigger Notice No. 2020 – 24¹ shows the State's 13-week insured unemployment rate (IUR) was: (1) 10.95 percent and (2) 622 percent

¹ Extended Benefits Trigger Notices can be found at http://ows.doleta.gov/unemploy/claims_arch.asp. Trigger notice 2020-24 was issued the week of June 28, 2020.

of the 13-week rate for the corresponding period in the two preceding years, making the State eligible for extended unemployment benefits.

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.

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

The State is requesting a one-year waiver from March 1, 2021 through February 28, 2022.

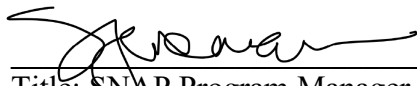
13. Proposed quality control review procedures:

There are no special quality control procedures needed in conjunction with this waiver.

14. State agency submitting waiver request and State contact person:

State of Montana
Stephanie Jenewein
SNAP Program Manager
406-329-1247
sjenewein@mt.gov

15. Signature and title of requesting official:



Title: SNAP Program Manager

Email for transmission of response: sjenewein@mt.gov

16. Date of request: 02/26/2021

17. State agency staff contact (name/email/telephone):

Stephanie Jenewein
sjenewein@mt.gov
406-329-1247

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