

Department of Human Services

Division of Family Assistance

1303 Hospital Ground, STE 1
St. Thomas, Virgin Islands, 00802
Phone (340) 774-7125 Fax (340) 777-5449



December 30, 2020

Bonnie Brathwaite
SNAP Regional Division Director
USDA/FNS Northeast Regional Office
10 Causeway Street, Room 501
Boston, MA 02222

Dear Ms. Brathwaite:

Please accept this letter as our official request for a one-year waiver to exempt Able-bodied Without Dependents (ABAWDs) throughout the Territory from January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021, from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) time limits at 7CFR 273.24. The ABAWD and DOL data stats are attached.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you require additional information.

Sincerely,


for Natalie Bailey
Administrator

c: Ms. Pauline Dawes
Mrs. Emmanueline Archer

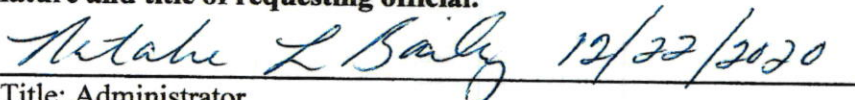
STATE WAIVER REQUEST

1. **Waiver Serial Number (if applicable):** 2150046
2. **Type of request:** Extension and modification
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:** Virgin Islands
6. **Region:** NERO
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 U.S. Virgin Islands is requesting to exempt able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWDs) on the entire U.S. territory from the SNAP time limit at 7 CFR 273.24.
9. **Justification for request:**
Under SNAP regulations at 7 CFR 273.24(f)(2), areas may qualify for an ABAWD time limit waiver if they have insufficient jobs. To support this claim, states may submit evidence that an area has an average unemployment rate for a 24-month time period that is at least 20 percent above the national average for the same 24-month period. 7 CFR 273.24(f)(6) provides that States may define areas to be waived.

The U.S. Virgin Islands is eligible for a waiver based on the island's average unemployment rate for the 24-month period of December 2018 through November 2020. The national average unemployment rate for this 24-month period was 5.7 percent; 20 percent above this was 6.9 percent. The territory's unemployment rate for this period was 8 percent. These unemployment rates are calculated from data

obtained from the Virgin Islands Department of Labor, since the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics does not collect data for this territory.¹

Virgin Islands Department of Labor Statistics Unemployment Data December 2018 through November 2020			
	Unemployed	Labor Force	Unemployment Rate
Virgin Islands	85,085	1,063,863	8.0%
20% Above National Average Threshold	6.9%		

10. **Anticipated impact on households and State agency operations:** This waiver will provide consistency for state operations.
11. **Caseload information, including percent, characteristics, and quality control error rate for affection portion (if applicable):** This waiver affects the entire territory.
12. **Anticipated implementation date and time period for which waiver is needed:** The U.S. Virgin Islands is requesting a one-year waiver from **January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021.**
13. **Proposed quality control review procedures:** There are no quality control procedures involved.
14. **State agency submitting waiver request and State contact person:** US Virgin Islands, Department of Human Services, Division of Family Assistance, Ms. Natalie Bailey
15. **Signature and title of requesting official:**

Title: Administrator
Email for transmission of response: natalie.bailey@dhs.vi.gov
16. **Date of request:** December 22, 2020
17. **State agency staff contact (name/email/telephone):** Emmanueline Archer, emmanueline.archer@dhs.vi.gov (340) 774-4309 ext. 4309
18. **Regional office contact person (to be completed by FNS regional office):**

¹ The data used to support this request was downloaded from the Virgin Islands Department of Labor website: <https://www.vidolviews.org/gsipub/index.asp?docid=430>.

Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS)

Area	Time Period	Labor Force	Employed	Unemployed	Unemployment Rate	Civilian Labor Force Participation Rate	Employment to Population Ratio	Preliminary
Virgin Islands	January, 2018	44,829	40,014	4,815	10.7%	0.0%	0.0%	No
Virgin Islands	February, 2018	44,626	40,362	4,264	9.5%	0.0%	0.0%	No
Virgin Islands	March, 2018	44,985	40,706	4,279	9.5%	0.0%	0.0%	No
Virgin Islands	April, 2018	44,735	40,587	4,148	9.2%	0.0%	0.0%	No
Virgin Islands	May, 2018	44,690	40,545	4,145	9.2%	0.0%	0.0%	No
Virgin Islands	June, 2018	45,300	40,996	4,304	9.5%	0.0%	0.0%	No
Virgin Islands	July, 2018	44,986	40,812	4,173	9.2%	0.0%	0.0%	No
Virgin Islands	August, 2018	45,261	41,811	3,449	7.6%	0.0%	0.0%	No
Virgin Islands	September, 2018	45,038	41,740	3,297	7.3%	0.0%	0.0%	No
Virgin Islands	October, 2018	45,308	42,030	3,277	7.2%	0.0%	0.0%	No
Virgin Islands	November, 2018	45,022	42,352	2,670	5.9%	0.0%	0.0%	No
Virgin Islands	December, 2018	45,447	42,568	2,879	6.3%	0.0%	0.0%	No
Virgin Islands	January, 2019	41,369	38,368	3,001	7.3%	0.0%	0.0%	No
Virgin Islands	February, 2019	41,606	38,879	2,727	6.6%	0.0%	0.0%	No
Virgin Islands	March, 2019	41,776	38,992	2,784	6.7%	0.0%	0.0%	No
Virgin Islands	April, 2019	43,556	40,917	2,639	6.1%	0.0%	0.0%	No
Virgin Islands	May, 2019	43,030	40,594	2,436	5.7%	0.0%	0.0%	No
Virgin Islands	June, 2019	43,404	40,608	2,796	6.4%	0.0%	0.0%	No
Virgin Islands	July, 2019	43,591	40,795	2,796	6.4%	0.0%	0.0%	No
Virgin Islands	August, 2019	42,823	40,272	2,551	6.0%	0.0%	0.0%	No
Virgin Islands	September, 2019	42,341	39,846	2,495	5.9%	0.0%	0.0%	No
Virgin Islands	October, 2019	42,004	39,590	2,414	5.7%	0.0%	0.0%	No
Virgin Islands	November, 2019	42,479	40,225	2,254	5.3%	0.0%	0.0%	No
Virgin Islands	December, 2019	42,833	40,614	2,219	5.2%	0.0%	0.0%	No
Virgin Islands	January, 2020	45,331	43,109	2,222	4.9%	0.0%	0.0%	No
Virgin Islands	February, 2020	45,699	43,621	2,078	4.5%	0.0%	0.0%	No
Virgin Islands	March, 2020	45,803	43,609	2,195	4.8%	0.0%	0.0%	No
Virgin Islands	April, 2020	45,719	40,484	5,235	11.4%	0.0%	0.0%	No
Virgin Islands	May, 2020	47,538	41,059	6,479	13.6%	0.0%	0.0%	No
Virgin Islands	June, 2020	47,086	40,734	6,352	13.5%	0.0%	0.0%	No
Virgin Islands	July, 2020	47,556	41,609	5,947	12.5%	0.0%	0.0%	No
Virgin Islands	August, 2020	46,433	40,747	5,686	12.2%	0.0%	0.0%	No
Virgin Islands	September, 2020	46,249	40,397	5,853	12.7%	0.0%	0.0%	No
Virgin Islands	October, 2020	45,713	40,584	5,129	11.2%	0.0%	0.0%	No
Virgin Islands	November, 2020	44,477	40,559	3,918	8.8%	0.0%	0.0%	No

Labor Force Statistics from the Current Population Survey											
Original Data Value											
Series Id: LNU01000000, LNU03000000											
Not Seasonally Adjusted											
Series title: (Unadj) Civilian Labor Force Level, (Unadj) Unemployment Level											
Labor force status: Civilian labor force, Unemployed											
Type of data: Number in thousands											
Age: 16 years and over											
Years: 2018 to 2020											
Year	National 24-Month Unemployment Average			National 24-Month Unemployment Average			National 24-Month Unemployment Average			National 24-Month Unemployment Average	
	Start date	End date	Civilian labor force	Unemployment	Unemployment rate	Unemployment	Unemployment	Unemployment	Unemployment	Unemployment Rate (Rounded)	20% Above the National Average (Rounded)
2018	Jan-18	Dec-19	160037	7189	4.5	160037	7189	160037	7189	3.8	4.5
2018	Feb-18	Jan-20	161494	7091	4.4	161494	7091	161494	7091	3.8	4.5
2018	Mar-18	Feb-20	161548	6671	4.1	161548	6671	161548	6671	3.7	4.5
2018	Apr-18	Mar-20	161280	5932	3.7	161280	5932	161280	5932	3.8	4.5
2018	May-18	Apr-20	161765	5756	3.6	161765	5756	161765	5756	4.2	5.0
2018	Jun-18	May-20	163277	6812	4.2	163277	6812	163277	6812	4.6	5.5
2018	Jul-18	Jun-20	163734	6730	4.1	163734	6730	163734	6730	4.9	5.8
2018	Aug-18	Jul-20	161909	6370	3.9	161909	6370	161909	6370	5.1	6.1
2018	Sep-18	Aug-20	161958	5766	3.6	161958	5766	161958	5766	5.3	6.4
2018	Oct-18	Sep-20	162723	5771	3.5	162723	5771	162723	5771	5.5	6.6
2018	Nov-18	Oct-20	162665	5650	3.5	162665	5650	162665	5650	5.6	6.7
2018	Dec-18	Nov-20	162510	6029	3.7	162510	6029	162510	6029	5.7	6.9
2019	Jan-19	Dec-19	162104	7140	4.4	162104	7140	162104	7140		
2019	Feb-19	Jan-20	162793	6625	4.1	162793	6625	162793	6625		
2019	Mar-19	Feb-20	162823	6382	3.9	162823	6382	162823	6382		
2019	Apr-19	Mar-20	162097	5387	3.3	162097	5387	162097	5387		
2019	May-19	Apr-20	162655	5503	3.4	162655	5503	162655	5503		
2019	Jun-19	May-20	164120	6292	3.8	164120	6292	164120	6292		
2019	Jul-19	Jun-20	164941	6566	4.0	164941	6566	164941	6566		
2019	Aug-19	Jul-20	164019	6203	3.8	164019	6203	164019	6203		
2019	Sep-19	Aug-20	163943	5465	3.3	163943	5465	163943	5465		
2019	Oct-19	Sep-20	164576	5510	3.3	164576	5510	164576	5510		
2019	Nov-19	Oct-20	164386	5441	3.3	164386	5441	164386	5441		
2019	Dec-19	Nov-20	164007	5503	3.4	164007	5503	164007	5503		
2020	Jan-20	Dec-20	163497	6504	4.0	163497	6504	163497	6504		
2020	Feb-20	Jan-21	164235	6218	3.8	164235	6218	164235	6218		
2020	Mar-20	Feb-21	162537	7370	4.5	162537	7370	162537	7370		
2020	Apr-20	Mar-21	155630	22504	14.4	155630	22504	155630	22504		
2020	May-20	Apr-21	157975	20514	13.0	157975	20514	157975	20514		
2020	Jun-20	May-21	160883	18072	11.2	160883	18072	160883	18072		
2020	Jul-20	Jun-21	161374	16882	10.5	161374	16882	161374	16882		
2020	Aug-20	Jul-21	160966	13742	8.5	160966	13742	160966	13742		
2020	Sep-20	Aug-21	160073	12277	7.7	160073	12277	160073	12277		
2020	Oct-20	Sep-21	161053	10620	6.6	161053	10620	161053	10620		
2020	Nov-20	Oct-21	160468	10264	6.4	160468	10264	160468	10264		

Labor Force, Employment and Unemployment for Virgin Islands in Multiple Time Periods				
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The table below shows the monthly not seasonally adjusted Labor Force, Employment and Unemployment data for Virgin Islands in Multiple Time Periods.

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<https://www.vidolviews.org/vosnet/analyzer/results.aspx?enc=HofuwY22SoLTS/uC+bpmizGZkm52zV+sR+IKAg/bUj0=>

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Data extracted on: December 23, 2020 (11:59:46 AM)

Labor Force Statistics from the Current Population Survey

Series Id: LNU01000000
 Not Seasonally Adjusted
Series title: (Unadj) Civilian Labor Force Level
Labor force status: Civilian labor force
Type of data: Number in thousands
Age: 16 years and over

Download:  [xlsx](#)

Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2018	160037(1)	161494	161548	161280	161765	163277	163734	161909	161958	162723	162665	162510
2019	162104(1)	162793	162823	162097	162655	164120	164941	164019	163943	164576	164386	164007
2020	163497(1)	164235	162537	155830	157975	160883	161374	160966	160073	161053	160468	

1: Data affected by changes in population controls.

Series Id: LNU03000000
 Not Seasonally Adjusted
Series title: (Unadj) Unemployment Level
Labor force status: Unemployed
Type of data: Number in thousands
Age: 16 years and over

Download:  [xlsx](#)

Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2018	7189	7091	6671	5932	5756	6812	6730	6370	5766	5771	5650	6029
2019	7140	6625	6382	5387	5503	6292	6556	6203	5465	5510	5441	5503
2020	6504	6218	7370	22504	20514	18072	16882	13742	12277	10620	10264	

Series Id: LNU04000000
 Not Seasonally Adjusted
Series title: (Unadj) Unemployment Rate
Labor force status: Unemployment rate
Type of data: Percent or rate
Age: 16 years and over

Download:  [xlsx](#)

Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2018	4.5	4.4	4.1	3.7	3.6	4.2	4.1	3.9	3.6	3.5	3.5	3.7
2019	4.4	4.1	3.9	3.3	3.4	3.8	4.0	3.8	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.4
2020	4.0	3.8	4.5	14.4	13.0	11.2	10.5	8.5	7.7	6.6	6.4	

U.S. BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS Postal Square Building 2 Massachusetts Avenue NE Washington, DC 20212-0001

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AREAS IN VIRGIN ISLANDS IS ELIGIBLE FOR AN ABAWD TIME LIMIT WAIVER ON THE BASIS OF
 DEC 2018 - NOV 2020
 UNEMPLOYMENT RATES

Step 1	Please see worksheet entitled "Step 1-4" for monthly labor force numbers
Step 2	Please see worksheet entitled "Step 1-4" for 24-month labor force totals
Step 3	Please see worksheet entitled "Step 1-4" for monthly unemployed numbers
Step 4	Please see worksheet entitled "Step 1-4" for 24-month unemployed totals

	from Step 2	from Step 4	Step 5	Step 6	Step 7
	DEC 2018 - NOV 2020	DEC 2018 - NOV 2020	DEC 2018 - NOV 2020	DEC 2018 - NOV 2020	DEC 2018 - NOV 2020
	Total labor force	Total number of unemployed	Average Unemployment Rate (unrounded)	Average Unemployment Rate (4 decimal places)	Average Unemployment Rate (multiply by 100)
					Average Unemployment Rate (one decimal place)
Statewide Virgin Islands	1,063,863	85,085	0.079977	0.0799	7.99
National Unemployment	3,893,865	223,003	0.057270	0.0572	5.72
Threshold - 20% Above the National Average				0.0686	6.86

Source: US Virgin Islands Department of Labor