

STATE WAIVER REQUEST

1. **Waiver Serial Number:** 2150045
2. **Type of request:** Amendment and extension
3. **Regulatory citation:** 7 CFR 273.24
4. **State:** Pennsylvania
5. **Region:** Mid-Atlantic
6. **Regulatory requirements:** Section 6(o) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008, as amended, and regulations at 7 CFR 273.24 provide 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.

Under 7 CFR 273.24(f), upon the request of the State agency, the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) may waive the applicability of time limit described above for any group of individuals in the state if FNS makes a determination that the area in which the individuals reside does not have a sufficient number of jobs to provide employment for the individuals.

7. **Description of alternative procedures:**

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania is requesting to exempt able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWDs) from SNAP time limits at 7 CFR 273.24 on a statewide basis.

8. **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 the state has been determined by the United States Department of Labor's Office of Unemployment Insurance (OUI), previously known as the Unemployment Insurance Service, as qualifying for extended unemployment benefits (EB). Under EB regulations at 20 CFR 615.12(e)(1), a state triggers "on" for EB for a week if the head of the State agency determines that, for the most recent three months in which data are available as of the trigger notice effective date, the trigger value both: (1) equaled or exceeded 110 percent of the trigger value for either (or both) of the corresponding three-month periods ending in the preceding two calendar years; **and** (2) equaled or exceeded 6.5 percent.

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania seeks a statewide waiver based on the three-month total unemployment rate (TUR) as reported by OUI in Trigger Notice No. 2021 –40, the weekly state extended benefit indicator notice for October 17, 2021. This criterion and data period were selected pursuant to federal regulations and guidance, and to reflect the ongoing shock to Pennsylvania's economy as a result of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). As of October 17, 2021, Pennsylvania has a three-month TUR of 6.6 percent, which is 150 percent of the corresponding three-month period ending in 2019. These metrics met the standard of at least 6.5 percent and 110 percent respectively necessary for Pennsylvania to qualify for EB under 20 CFR 615.12(e)(1) as of October 17, 2021. Consistent with USDA guidance, Pennsylvania is requesting to implement the statewide waiver on October 1, 2022, which is within 12 months of the trigger notice effective date of Trigger Notice No. 2021–40.

Office of Unemployment Insurance, State Extended Benefit Indicators Under P.L. 112-240 Effective October 17, 2021		
State	Three-Month Total Unemployment Rate	Percent of Prior Second Year
Pennsylvania	6.6	150

Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Office of Unemployment Insurance, accessed October 17, 2021 from https://oui.doleta.gov/unemploy/trigger/2021/trig_101721.html .

9. Anticipated impact on households and state agency operations:

This waiver will provide consistency for households and state agency operations in areas where unemployment has risen dramatically, due largely to the effects of COVID-19.

10. Caseload information, including percent, characteristics, and quality control error rate for affection portion (if applicable):

The caseload for these areas represents 100 percent of the caseload for the state. There are no quality control procedures involved.

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

Pennsylvania is requesting a one-year waiver, from October 1, 2022 through September 30, 2023.

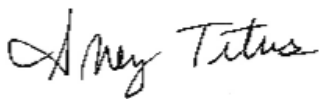
12. Proposed quality control review procedures:

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

13. State agency submitting waiver request and state contact person:

Pennsylvania Department of Human Services
Office of Income Maintenance
Inez Titus
Deputy Secretary

14. Signature and title of requesting official:



Deputy Secretary

15. Date of request: May 19, 2022

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

Cathy Buhrig
Director
Bureau of Policy
cbuhrig@pa.gov
717-787-4081

Hoa Pham
Director
Bureau of Employment Programs
hopham@pa.gov
610-428-0172

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