

ABLE-BODIED ADULTS WITHOUT DEPENDENTS (ABAWD) WAIVER REQUEST

1. **Waiver Serial Number (if applicable):**
2. **Type of request:** Initial
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:** Georgia
6. **Region:** SERO
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 Georgia is requesting to exempt able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWDs) in 23 counties from SNAP time limits at 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 Georgia seeks a waiver for a regional group of 18 contiguous counties based on the region's aggregate average unemployment rate for the 24-month period of December 2020 to November 2022. The national average unemployment rate for this period was 4.6 percent; 20 percent above this was 5.5 percent. The region's aggregate average unemployment rate for this period was 5.5 percent.

Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data December 2020 to November 2022		
Contiguous Counties	Unemployed Total	Labor Force Total
Baker County, GA	26,994	1,232
Ben Hill County, GA	133,823	6,578

Clay County, GA	20,626	1,770
Crisp County, GA	238,292	15,911
Dooly County, GA	116,391	6,927
Dougherty County, GA	884,212	48,592
Macon County, GA	110,905	6,144
Randolph County, GA	57,115	2,794
Schley County, GA	51,452	1,938
Sumter County, GA	295,081	14,854
Talbot County, GA	67,156	2,824
Taylor County, GA	66,544	3,761
Telfair County, GA	88,242	5,729
Terrell County, GA	84,366	4,690
Treutlen County, GA	63,188	2,652
Turner County, GA	77,455	4,181
Wheeler County, GA	39,347	2,110
Wilcox County, GA	64,890	2,847
Combined Area Total	2,486,079	135,534
Combined Area Unemployment Rate	5.5%	
20% Above National Average Threshold	5.5%	

The State of Georgia seeks a waiver for a regional group of 2 contiguous counties based on the region's aggregate average unemployment rate for the 24-month period of March 2021 to February 2023. The national average unemployment rate for this period was 4.3 percent; 20 percent above this was 5.1 percent. The region's aggregate average unemployment rate for this period was 5.2 percent.

Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data March 2021 to February 2023		
Contiguous Counties	Unemployed Total	Labor Force Total
Hancock County, GA	60,106	3,236
Taliaferro County, GA	12,890	570
Combined Area Total	72,996	3,806
Combined Area Unemployment Rate	5.2%	
20% Above National Average Threshold	5.1%	

The State of Georgia seeks a waiver for a regional group of 3 contiguous counties based on the region's aggregate average unemployment rate for the 24-month period of March 2021 to February 2023. The national average unemployment rate for this period was 4.3 percent; 20 percent above this was 5.1 percent. The region's aggregate average unemployment rate for this period was 5.1 percent.

Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data March 2021 to February 2023		
Contiguous Counties	Unemployed Total	Labor Force Total
Burke County, GA	216,772	11,763
Jenkins County, GA	78,488	3,456
Screven County, GA	121,261	5,865
Combined Area Total	416,521	21,084
Combined Area Unemployment Rate	5.1%	
20% Above National Average Threshold	5.1%	

- 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 04/30/2023, represents 6.93% of the ABAWD caseload for the state. There are no quality control procedures involved.
- 12. Anticipated implementation date and time period for which waiver is needed:** The State is requesting a one-year waiver from July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024.
- 13. Proposed quality control review procedures:** There are no special quality control procedures needed in conjunction with this waiver.
- 14. Name, title, email, and signature of requesting official:**
Name: John Hallman
Title: Deputy Commissioner – Office of Family Independence
Email: john.hallman@dhs.ga.gov
Signature: John Hallman (signed cover letter attached)
- 15. Date of request:** 5/15/2023

16. State agency staff contact:

Name: Pamela Mack

Title: Food and Nutrition Director

Email: pamela.mack@dhs.ga.gov

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