

STATE 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
4. **Regulatory citation:** 7 CFR 273.24
5. **State:** Maryland
6. **Region:** Mid-Atlantic
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, the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Agriculture 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 Maryland is requesting a waiver to exempt SNAP recipients residing in certain jurisdictions from ABAWD requirements at 7 CFR 273.24 on the basis that the areas in which they live have experienced an unemployment rate that is 20% above the national average for some months or all the months covering the period of December 2020 through November 2022. The following areas qualify for a waiver under the referenced regulation:
 - Baltimore City
 - Prince George's County
 - Worcester County
 - Wicomico County
 - Somerset County
9. **Justification for request:** Under SNAP regulations at 7 CFR 273.24(f)(3), the State may support a claim of insufficient jobs by submitting evidence that the waived area have a 24-month average unemployment rate that exceeds the national average by 20 percent for any 24-month period no earlier than the same period the U.S. Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration uses to designate Labor Surplus Areas for the current fiscal year. All the proposed waiver jurisdictions meet this

requirement. The attached file shows the data that was used to determine eligibility for waiver for each of the proposed jurisdictions.

10. Anticipated impact on households and State agency operations:

Approximately 53% of the ABAWD population resides in the proposed waiver areas. This waiver will allow the State to focus its limited resources to supporting the remaining individuals who must be engaged in required work activities or lose their benefits.

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

There are approximately 38,000 ABAWDs in Maryland of which 21,100 live in the proposed waiver areas.

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.

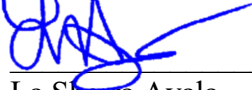
13. Proposed quality control review procedures:

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

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

La Sherra Ayala

15. Signature and title of requesting official:



La Sherra Ayala
Executive Director
Family Investment Administration
Maryland Department of Human Services
Lasherra.Ayala@Maryland.Gov

16. Date of request: June 13, 2023

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

La Sherra Ayala,
Executive Director
Family Investment Administration
Maryland Department of Human Services
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18. Regional office contact person (*to be completed by FNS regional office*):

Mid-Atlantic Region