

STATE WAIVER REQUEST

1. **Waiver Serial Number (if applicable):** 2130035
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:** New Hampshire
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. **Proposed alternative procedures:** The State of New Hampshire is requesting to exempt able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWDs) in 7 towns 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 seeks a waiver for the individual towns of Dalton and Stratford, based on their individual unemployment rates that are 20 percent above the national average for the 24-month period of January 2020 through December 2021.

January 2020 through December 2021			
Town	Unemployed Total	Labor Force Total	Unemployment Rate

Dalton town, NH	863	10,182	8.5%
Stratford town, NH	536	5,959	9.0%
20% Above National Average Threshold	8.0%		

The State seeks a waiver for the townships of Hale's Location and Pinkham's Grant in the Conway NH-ME Labor Market Area based on the region's aggregate average unemployment rate for the 24-month period of January 2020 through December 2021. The Labor Market Area used in this waiver request is defined by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.¹ The combined average unemployment rate for this township in this Labor Market Area was 8.1 percent.

January 2020 through December 2021			
Conway NH-ME LMA	Unemployed Total	Labor Force Total	Unemployment Rate
Hale's Location, NH	91	1,005	9.1%
Pinkham's Grant, NH	0	123	0%
Total Region	91	1,128	8.1%
20% Above National Average Threshold	8.0%		

The State seeks a waiver for three towns in the Plymouth NH Labor Market Area based on the region's aggregate average unemployment rate for the 24-month period of April 2020 through March 2022. The Labor Market Area used in this waiver request is defined by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. The combined average unemployment rate for these towns in this Labor Market Area was 8.0 percent.

April 2020 through March 2022			
Plymouth NH LMA	Unemployed Total	Labor Force Total	Unemployment Rate
Ellsworth town, NH	61	1,291	4.7%
Lincoln town, NH	1,414	17,378	8.1%
Waterville Valley town, NH	263	3,183	8.3%
Total Region	1,738	21,852	8.0%
20% Above National Average Threshold	8.0%		

10. Caseload information, including percent of caseload and description of population expected to be affected by this waiver: As of July 31, 2022, the total anticipated SNAP caseload for the waived area was 181. The total number of

¹ Map available from the New Hampshire Employment Security
<http://www.nhes.nh.gov/elmi/tools/documents/nh-towns-lma.pdf>.

ABAWDs within the caseload was 7. This represents .0387% of the SNAP caseload for the waived area.

- 11. 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.
- 12. Anticipated implementation date and time period for which waiver is needed (please indicate if the waiver approval is needed to make system adjustments):**
The State is requesting a one-year waiver, from October 1, 2022 through September 30, 2023.
- 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: Debra Sorli
Title: Administrator IV
Email: Debra.E.Sorli@dhhs.nh.gov
Signature:
- 15. Date of request:** 09/07/2022
- 16. State agency staff contact:**
Name: Bridgette Dukette
Title: SNAP Administrator III
Email: Bridgette.s.dukette@dhhs.nh.gov
- 17. Regional office contact person (to be completed by FNS regional office):**