

STATE WAIVER REQUEST

Waiver Serial Number (if applicable): 2150033

Type of request: Initial

Statutory citation: Section 6(o) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008

Regulatory citation: 7 CFR § 273.24

State: Arizona

Region: Southwest Regional Office

Regulatory requirements:

Under 7 CFR § 273.24(b) individuals are not 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 three months during any three-year period in which the individual was subject to, but did not comply with, the SNAP work requirements. Regulations at 273.24(a) provide that fulfilling the work requirement means: working 20 hours or more per week, averaged monthly; participating in and complying with the requirements of a work program or a workfare program for at least 20 hours per week; or any combination of working and participating in a work program for a total of 20 hours per week.

Under 7 CFR § 273.24(f), upon the request of a state agency, the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) may waive the applicability of the 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.

Description of alternative procedures:

The State of Arizona is requesting to exempt Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWDs) in 14 counties and 15 reservations from SNAP time limits at 7 CFR § 273.24.

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 is designated as a Labor Surplus Area by the Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration, or 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 State of Arizona seeks a waiver for a group of 14 contiguous counties based on the region's aggregate average unemployment rate for the 24-month period of May 2021 through April 2023. The average national unemployment rate for this period was 4.0 percent; 20 percent above this was 4.8 percent. The region's aggregate average unemployment rate for this period was 4.9 percent.

Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data May 2021 - April 2023		
County	Unemployed Total	Labor Force Total
Apache County	35,144	450,512
Cochise County	52,253	1,170,800
Coconino County	80,499	1,769,091
Gila County	20,886	489,781
Graham County	13,797	384,068
Greenlee County	3,372	112,344
La Paz County	10,051	211,798
Mohave County	99,853	2,142,439
Navajo County	51,507	950,252
Pima County	462,610	11,728,617
Pinal County	188,827	4,749,708
Santa Cruz County	34,552	452,624
Yavapai County	90,971	2,570,671
Yuma County	290,254	2,311,162
Combined Area Total	1,434,576	29,493,867
Combined Area Unemployment Rate	4.9%	
20% Above National Average Threshold	4.8%	

The State requests to waive the following reservations based on having average unemployment rates exceeding the national average for a recent 24-month period. The national average unemployment rate for this 24-month period was 4.0 percent; 20 percent above this was 4.8 percent. The reservation unemployment rates were calculated by applying 2017-2021 American Community Survey¹ share ratios to county-level Bureau of Labor Statistics data from May 2021 – April 2023. The following table summarizes the calculations:

¹ These calculations are based on data from the 2017-2021 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates.

Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment/Census Bureau Data May 2021 - April 2023			
	Unemployed	Labor Force	Unemployment Rate
Yuma County (part); Arizona (part); Cocopah Reservation, AZ	2,349	10,000	23.5%
Total Cocopah Reservation	2,349	10,000	23.5%
Apache County (part); Arizona (part); Fort Apache Reservation, AZ	772	5,369	14.4%
Gila County (part); Arizona (part); Fort Apache Reservation, AZ	1,304	13,287	9.8%
Navajo County (part); Arizona (part); Fort Apache Reservation, AZ	7,730	90,485	8.5%
Total Fort Apache Reservation	9,806	109,142	9.0%
Maricopa County (part); Arizona (part); Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation Reservation, AZ	927	10,088	9.2%
Total Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation Reservation	927	10,088	9.2%
Mohave County (part); Arizona (part); Fort Mojave Reservation and Off-Reservation Trust Land, Arizona--California--Nevada	807	9,657	8.4%
Total Fort Mojave Reservation	807	9,657	8.4%
Maricopa County (part); Arizona (part); Gila River Indian Reservation, AZ	927	22,814	4.1%
Pinal County (part); Arizona (part); Gila River Indian Reservation, AZ	4,636	77,195	6.0%
Total Gila River Reservation	5,563	100,009	5.6%
Coconino County (part); Arizona (part); Hopi Reservation and Off-Reservation Trust Land, AZ	664	10,528	6.3%
Navajo County (part); Arizona (part); Hopi Reservation and Off-Reservation Trust Land, AZ	3,988	67,306	5.9%
Total Hopi Reservation	4,652	77,835	6.0%
Coconino County (part); Arizona (part); Hualapai Indian Reservation and Off-Reservation Trust Land, AZ	0	199	0.0%

Mohave County (part); Arizona (part); Hualapai Indian Reservation and Off-Reservation Trust Land, AZ	1,169	13,141	8.9%
Yavapai County (part); Arizona (part); Hualapai Indian Reservation and Off-Reservation Trust Land, AZ	0	0	-
Total Hualapai Reservation	1,169	13,340	8.8%
Coconino County (part); Arizona (part); Kaibab Indian Reservation, AZ	0	0	-
Mohave County (part); Arizona (part); Kaibab Indian Reservation, AZ	280	4,449	6.3%
Total Kaibab Reservation	280	4,449	6.3%
Pinal County (part); Arizona (part); Maricopa (Ak Chin) Indian Reservation and Off-Reservation Trust Land, AZ	1,712	12,709	13.5%
Total Maricopa Reservation	1,712	12,709	13.5%
Apache County (part); Arizona (part); Navajo Nation Reservation and Off-Reservation Trust Land, Arizona - New Mexico - Utah	31,226	328,123	9.5%
Coconino County (part); Arizona (part); Navajo Nation Reservation and Off-Reservation Trust Land, Arizona - New Mexico - Utah	20,488	213,356	9.6%
Navajo County (part); Arizona (part); Navajo Nation Reservation and Off-Reservation Trust Land, Arizona -New Mexico -Utah	13,272	171,342	7.7%
Total Navajo Nation Reservation	64,986	712,821	9.1%
Maricopa County (part); Arizona (part); Salt River Reservation, AZ	11,670	58,132	20.1%
Total Salt River Reservation	11,670	58,132	20.1%
Gila County (part); Arizona (part); San Carlos Reservation, AZ	4,966	47,740	10.4%
Graham County (part); Arizona (part); San Carlos Reservation, AZ	5,776	37,402	15.4%
Pinal County (part); Arizona (part); San Carlos Reservation, AZ	0	0	-
Total San Carlos Reservation	10,741	85,142	12.6%
Maricopa County (part); Arizona (part); Tohono O'odham Nation Reservation and Off-Reservation Trust Land, AZ	748	4,423	16.9%

Pima County (part); Arizona (part); Tohono O'odham Nation Reservation and Off-Reservation Trust Land, AZ	8,883	75,037	11.8%
Pinal County (part); Arizona (part); Tohono O'odham Nation Reservation and Off-Reservation Trust Land, AZ	778	4,149	18.8%
Total Tohono O'odham Nation Reservation	10,410	83,610	12.5%
Yavapai County (part); Arizona (part); Yavapai-Apache Nation Reservation, AZ	563	11,189	5.0%
Total Yavapai-Apache Reservation	563	11,189	5.0%
Yavapai County (part); Arizona (part); Yavapai-Prescott Reservation, AZ	188	3,667	5.1%
Total Yavapai-Prescott Reservation	188	3,667	5.1%

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.

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

As of June 30, 2023, the SNAP caseload in waived areas represents 47 percent of the State Caseload (213,652 out of 456,201). No quality control errors have been cited for this affected portion.

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

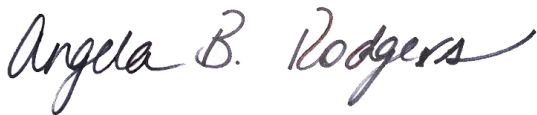
The State is requesting a one-year waiver, from October 1, 2023 through September 30, 2024.

Proposed quality control review procedures:

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

State agency submitting waiver request and State contact person:

Signature and title of requesting official:



Angie Rodgers

Director

Arizona Department of Economic Security

Email for transmission of response: nmeeden@azdes.gov

Date of request: August 2, 2023

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

Name: Nancy Meeden

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