

STATE WAIVER REQUEST

1. **Waiver Serial Number (if applicable):** 2150020
2. **Type of request:** Amendment and extension
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:** Connecticut
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. **Description of alternative procedures:**

The State of Connecticut is requesting to exempt able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWDs) in 137 towns and cities 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 qualify for an ABAWD time limit waiver if they have insufficient jobs. To support this claim, states may submit evidence that an area has an average unemployment rate for a 24-month 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 Connecticut seeks a waiver for a region of 137 contiguous cities and towns based on the region's combined average unemployment rate that is 20 percent above the national average for the 24-month period of March 2021 through April 2023. The national average unemployment rate for this 24-month period was 4.0 percent; 20 percent above this was 4.8 percent. The region's average unemployment rate for this period is 4.8 percent.

Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data March 2021 through April 2023		
Cities/Towns	Total Labor Force	Total Unemployed
Ansonia	222,899	15,455
Ashford	61,883	2,414
Avon	226,679	7,836
Barkhamsted	54,690	1,984
Beacon Falls	85,723	3,577
Berlin	283,359	10,995
Bethany	78,187	2,740
Bethel	264,803	10,723
Bloomfield	284,138	14,192
Bozrah	35,724	1,275
Branford	397,644	15,824
Bridgeport	1,653,779	113,258
Bridgewater	20,080	791
Bristol	794,119	42,424
Brookfield	222,536	9,136
Brooklyn	100,834	4,629
Burlington	138,588	5,305
Canaan	15,806	547
Canterbury	68,427	2,967
Canton	137,323	5,099
Chaplin	30,094	1,482
Cheshire	386,722	12,708
Colchester	223,931	8,287
Colebrook	19,903	922
Cornwall	18,865	577
Danbury	1,130,101	46,148
Darien	207,617	7,955
Derby	159,141	9,264
East Granby	73,778	2,685
East Hartford	650,618	38,481
East Haven	390,289	19,334
East Lyme	201,421	8,912
East Windsor	162,144	7,240
Eastford	24,340	926
Easton	91,855	3,550
Enfield	551,452	24,451
Fairfield	712,936	29,284
Farmington	342,385	12,064
Franklin	24,925	1,056
Gastonbury	457,296	14,917

Goshen	40,436	1,554
Granby	168,030	5,503
Greenwich	697,644	25,992
Griswold	148,852	8,108
Groton	425,986	18,436
Guilford	319,810	9,720
Hamden	872,846	36,320
Hampton	25,387	1,021
Hartford	1,265,628	97,369
Hartland	27,663	1,014
Harwinton	77,079	2,808
Killingly	233,989	10,831
Lebanon	97,191	4,295
Ledyard	185,846	8,039
Lisbon	55,372	2,922
Litchfield	117,653	4,386
Lyme	28,205	1,107
Madison	224,867	7,866
Manchester	790,390	36,977
Marlborough	85,768	3,056
Meriden	792,608	42,949
Middlebury	96,682	3,837
Milford	739,624	31,681
Monroe	240,856	10,556
Montville	212,870	10,228
Morris	34,781	1,153
Naugatuck	412,020	21,547
New Britain	884,305	59,273
New Canaan	200,523	7,622
New Fairfield	170,304	7,423
New Hartford	95,332	3,465
New Haven	1,617,390	89,190
New London	284,260	19,292
New Milford	361,339	15,123
Newington	411,442	16,432
Newtown	340,505	13,512
Norfolk	22,103	785
North Branford	203,615	7,946
North Canaan	43,177	1,693
North Haven	332,653	12,776
North Stonington	68,392	2,697
Norwalk	1,223,930	52,867
Norwich	470,774	27,360

Old Lyme	87,164	3,821
Orange	181,716	6,166
Oxford	176,670	7,259
Plainfield	208,864	9,572
Plainville	250,982	11,590
Plymouth	158,842	8,118
Pomfret	60,898	1,893
Preston	57,026	2,926
Prospect	136,057	5,422
Putnam	117,419	5,878
Redding	105,648	4,156
Ridgefield	283,444	10,577
Rocky Hill	279,881	10,415
Roxbury	32,686	964
Salem	49,725	2,176
Scotland	22,911	878
Seymour	214,817	10,985
Shelton	531,224	25,415
Sherman	44,800	1,711
Simsbury	336,779	11,298
Somers	120,800	4,984
South Windsor	346,225	12,780
Southbury	209,764	9,521
Southington	594,648	23,499
Sprague	37,405	2,038
Stamford	1,722,455	74,673
Sterling	49,217	2,565
Stonington	230,976	9,152
Stratford	654,727	36,474
Suffield	185,807	7,350
Thomaston	113,241	4,567
Thompson	128,983	5,986
Torrington	458,362	23,537
Trumbull	426,059	18,227
Voluntown	34,362	1,727
Wallingford	648,429	25,216
Warren	19,535	792
Washington	50,829	1,729
Waterbury	1,207,879	88,591
Waterford	237,812	10,710
West Hartford	832,688	29,963
West Haven	746,516	36,778
Weston	104,324	4,164

Westport	311,341	11,132
Wethersfield	336,743	14,869
Wilton	200,928	7,569
Winchester	146,615	7,028
Windham	296,988	17,818
Windsor Locks	183,818	8,224
Windsor	398,759	18,599
Wolcott	238,713	9,954
Woodbridge	114,976	3,695
Woodbury	132,563	5,232
Woodstock	101,887	4,607
Total for Region	41,117,088	1,953,115
Combined Region Unemployment Rate	4.8 %	
20 % Above National Average Threshold	4.8 %	

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 August 2023, represent 94.8% of the caseload for the state. There are no quality control procedures involved.

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

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

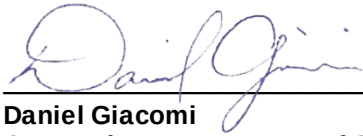
13. Proposed quality control review procedures:

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

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

Connecticut Department of Social Services
Daniel Giacomi, Division Director
Daniel.Giacomi@ct.gov
(860) 424-5080

15. Signature and title of requesting official:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Daniel Giacomi", is positioned above a horizontal line.

Daniel Giacomi
Connecticut Department of Social Services
Daniel.Giacomi@ct.gov

16. Date of request: 9/26/2023

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

Todd Mallard
Todd.Mallard@ct.gov
(860) 424-4968

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