

STATE WAIVER REQUEST

1. **Waiver Serial Number (if applicable):**
2. **Type of request:** 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:** District of Columbia
6. **Region:** MARO
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 District of Columbia (District) is requesting waiver for the entire District from SNAP time limit at 7 CFR § 273.24.
9. **Justification for request:**
 - Per 7 CFR § 273.24(f)(3)(iii), the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) will approve State agency waivers where FNS confirms data from the BLS or BLS cooperating agency that an area has a 24 month average unemployment that exceeds the national average by 20 percent for any 24-month period no earlier than the same period the Employment and Training Administration (ETA) uses to designate Labor Surplus Areas (LSAs) for the current fiscal year.
 - Under SNAP regulations at 7 CFR § 273.24(f)(2)(ii), State agencies may support a claim of insufficient jobs by submitting evidence that an area has an average unemployment rate for a 24-month 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 District of Columbia seeks a waiver for the entire District based on having an average unemployment rate greater than 20 percent above the national average for

the 24-month period of April 2021 through March 2023. The District's average unemployment rate for this 24-month period was 5.5 percent. The national average for this period was 4.2 percent; 20 percent above the national average was 5.0 percent.

Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data April 2021 through March 2023		
	Unemployed	Labor force
District of Columbia	507,551	9,257,312
Unemployment Rate	5.5%	
20% Above the National Average Unemployment Rate Threshold	5.0%	

- 10. Anticipated impact on households and State agency operations:** This waiver will provide consistency for state operations and ensure that thousands of individuals facing a lack of sufficient jobs are able to maintain SNAP benefits.
- 11. Caseload information, including percent, characteristics, and quality control error rate for affection portion (if applicable):** This waiver affects the entire District.
- 12. Anticipated implementation date and time period for which waiver is needed:** The District is requesting a one-year waiver, from December 1, 2023 through November 30, 2024.
- 13. Proposed quality control review procedures:** There are no quality control procedures involved.
- 14. State agency submitting waiver request and State contact person:** District of Columbia, Carla Drake.
- 15. Signature and title of requesting official:**

Name: Anthea Seymour
Title: Administrator
Email: Anthea.Seymour@dc.gov
Signature:

- 16. Date of request:** July 26, 2023

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

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