

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:** Delaware
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 three months during any three-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 three-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:** Delaware is requesting a waiver for the entire state 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.

Delaware seeks a waiver for the entire state based on it having an average unemployment rate greater than 20 percent above the national average for the 24-month period of July 2021 through June 2023. Delaware's average unemployment rate for this 24-month period was 4.6 percent. The national average for this period was 3.9 percent; 20 percent above this was 4.6 percent.

Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data July 2021 through June 2023		
	Unemployed	Labor force
Delaware	546,377	11,925,954
Unemployment Rate	4.6%	
20% Above the National Average Unemployment Rate Threshold	4.6%	

- 10. Anticipated impact on households and State agency operations:** This waiver will provide consistency for state operations.
- 11. Caseload information, including percent, characteristics, and quality control error rate for affection portion (if applicable):** This waiver affects the entire state (approximately 7,500 ABAWDs).
- 12. Anticipated implementation date and time period for which waiver is needed:**
Delaware is requesting a one-year waiver, from October 1, 2023 through September 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:**
State of Delaware
Department of Health and Social Services
Division of Social Services
Thomas Hall, Director
- 15. Signature and title of requesting official:**


Thomas Hall
Director, Division of Social Services
thomas.hall@delaware.gov
- 16. Date of request:** 9/14/2023
- 17. State agency staff contact (name/email/telephone):**
Shane Cannon/shane.cannon@delaware.gov/302-255-9873
Jessica Horn/jessica.horn@delaware.gov/302-255-9599
- 18. Regional office contact person (to be completed by FNS regional office):**