

STATE WAIVER REQUEST

1. **Waiver Serial Number (if applicable):** 2150013
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:** Illinois
6. **Region:** MWRO
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 Illinois is requesting a waiver to exempt residents residing in the entire state from the SNAP time limit 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 of Illinois seeks a statewide waiver for the entire state based on the state's average unemployment rate for the 24-month period of April 2021 through March 2023. The national average unemployment rate for this period was 4.2 percent; 20 percent above this was 5.0 percent. The region's aggregate average unemployment rate for this period was 5.0 percent.

Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data April 2021 to March 2023			
	Unemployed	Labor Force	Unemployment Rate
Illinois	7,681,790	154,561,438	5.0%
20% Above National Average Threshold	5.0%		

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):

This waiver affects the entire state. The April 2023 statewide households were 1,081,078 with 1,994,501 individuals. The SNAP Payment Error Rate for FFY 2022 is preliminarily at 10.91%.

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

The State is requesting a one-year waiver, from November 1, 2023 through October 31, 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:

15. Signature and title of requesting official:



Leslie Cully, Illinois SNAP Director

Email for transmission of response: Leslie.k.cully@illinois.gov

16. Date of request: 5/19/2023

17. State agency staff contact (name/email/telephone): Terri Vaniter, [terri.vaniter@illinois](mailto:terri.vaniter@illinois.gov) 217/782-1239

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