

STATE WAIVER REQUEST

1. **Waiver Serial Number (if applicable):** 2150037
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:** Kentucky
6. **Region:** Southeast
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 Kentucky is requesting to exempt able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWDs) residing in 98 counties from SNAP time limits under 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 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 Kentucky seeks a waiver for a region of 98 contiguous counties based on its average unemployment rate that is 20 percent above the national average for the 24-month period of September 2021 to August 2023. The national average unemployment rate for this 24-month period was 3.7 percent; 20 percent above this was 4.5 percent. The region's unemployment rate was 4.5 percent for the same period.

Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data September 2021 to August 2023		
County	Total Unemployed	Total Labor Force
Adair County	8,026	171,805
Allen County	8,238	215,314
Ballard County	4,081	83,907
Barren County	17,953	428,528
Bath County	6,040	113,933
Bell County	10,203	195,980
Bourbon County	8,032	230,734
Boyd County	21,890	413,276
Boyle County	12,639	307,751
Bracken County	3,971	91,568
Breathitt County	5,846	76,858
Breckinridge County	8,850	191,628
Butler County	5,014	120,499
Caldwell County	5,133	147,648
Calloway County	17,054	412,311
Carlisle County	1,999	54,640
Carter County	16,826	231,999
Casey County	6,152	158,679
Christian County	29,074	597,923
Clark County	15,014	416,008
Clay County	7,136	122,102
Clinton County	4,213	87,701
Crittenden County	3,669	91,975
Cumberland County	2,665	81,196
Daviess County	43,166	1,101,155
Edmonson County	5,501	113,996
Elliott County	3,682	45,257
Estill County	5,918	123,982
Fleming County	6,507	146,024
Floyd County	15,507	261,907
Fulton County	2,330	50,712
Garrard County	7,347	190,125
Grant County	10,749	282,586
Graves County	16,087	374,724
Grayson County	11,422	250,039
Green County	4,426	121,745
Greenup County	18,785	311,252
Hancock County	3,894	91,769

Hardin County	46,395	1,129,385
Harlan County	9,830	153,603
Harrison County	7,218	212,410
Hart County	7,369	184,556
Henderson County	18,791	497,132
Hickman County	1,685	39,573
Hopkins County	19,434	435,782
Jackson County	5,561	99,316
Johnson County	9,855	159,827
Knott County	6,437	102,601
Knox County	12,926	239,891
Larue County	6,024	138,484
Laurel County	25,261	605,923
Lawrence County	7,336	134,541
Lee County	2,769	49,551
Leslie County	4,028	60,460
Letcher County	8,896	141,533
Lewis County	8,064	110,048
Lincoln County	10,898	225,600
Livingston County	4,279	87,794
Logan County	10,702	297,422
Lyon County	3,237	76,892
Madison County	41,127	1,125,036
Magoffin County	7,852	76,668
Marshall County	14,152	348,158
Martin County	4,119	53,260
Mason County	7,761	158,267
McCracken County	28,935	719,895
McCreary County	6,018	113,069
McLean County	4,118	95,311
Meade County	12,602	279,139
Menifee County	3,281	57,213
Mercer County	9,350	243,628
Metcalfe County	4,263	93,948
Monroe County	3,915	110,968
Montgomery County	13,005	286,911
Morgan County	5,232	98,996
Muhlenberg County	13,694	237,420
Nicholas County	3,233	78,900
Ohio County	10,820	217,799
Owsley County	1,736	25,535

Pendleton County	6,115	167,639
Perry County	9,998	192,080
Pike County	24,449	454,235
Powell County	5,251	126,127
Pulaski County	27,827	608,945
Robertson County	935	19,526
Rockcastle County	7,135	155,703
Rowan County	11,607	244,617
Russell County	7,435	149,481
Simpson County	7,517	211,496
Taylor County	10,719	294,804
Todd County	4,584	137,938
Trigg County	6,530	145,787
Union County	6,215	141,297
Warren County	57,675	1,579,383
Wayne County	8,604	169,107
Webster County	5,009	125,167
Whitley County	14,827	335,606
Wolfe County	3,074	54,287
Total Region	1,042,753	23,424,906
Combined Unemployment Rate	4.5%	
20% Above National Average Threshold	4.5%	

10. Anticipated impact on households and State agency operations:

This waiver will provide consistency for households and State agency operations.

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

The caseload for these areas, as of **August 2023**, represent **66%** of the caseload for the state. There are no quality control procedures involved.

12. Anticipated implementation date and time 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:

Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services (CHFS)
Department for Community Based Services (DCBS)

275 East Main St
Frankfort, KY 40621
Clarizza Singayao, Public Assistance Program Specialist

15. Signature and title of requesting official:

DocuSigned by:


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Lesa Dennis

Title: DCBS Commissioner

Email for transmission of response: Lesa.Dennis@ky.gov

16. Date of request: 11/28/2023

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

Clarizza Singayao, Public Assistance Program Specialist

Clarizza.Singayao@ky.gov

502-564-4679

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