

STATE WAIVER REQUEST

1. **Waiver Serial Number (if applicable):** 2160020
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:** Louisiana
6. **Region:** Southwest
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 Louisiana is requesting to exempt able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWDs) in 33 parishes 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 is designated as a Labor Surplus Area (LSA) by the Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration, or 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 Louisiana seeks a waiver for a region of 33 parishes based on the region's average unemployment rate for the 24-month period of February 2021 through January 2023. The national average unemployment rate for this period was 4.4 percent; 20 percent above this was 5.2 percent. The region's aggregate average unemployment was 5.2 percent.

Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data February 2021 through January 2023		
County	Total Unemployed	Total Labor Force
Assumption Parish, LA	12,073	212,842
Avoyelles Parish, LA	16,355	349,676
Bienville Parish, LA	6,121	125,822
Catahoula Parish, LA	3,852	83,261
Claiborne Parish, LA	5,631	131,050
Concordia Parish, LA	8,686	167,146
East Carroll Parish, LA	3,550	40,563
Evangeline Parish, LA	13,615	288,938
Franklin Parish, LA	9,440	178,776
Iberia Parish, LA	35,732	665,415
Iberville Parish, LA	18,553	334,029
Jefferson Parish, LA	232,493	5,042,948
Madison Parish, LA	4,869	83,809
Morehouse Parish, LA	14,743	239,248
Orleans Parish, LA	260,952	4,260,025
Ouachita Parish, LA	72,174	1,690,528
Plaquemines Parish, LA	8,750	233,129
Pointe Coupee Parish, LA	10,977	234,709
Richland Parish, LA	9,090	197,784
St. Bernard Parish, LA	25,064	480,287
St. Helena Parish, LA	7,208	103,341
St. James Parish, LA	12,426	213,733
St. John the Baptist Parish, LA	30,067	460,202
St. Landry Parish, LA	40,498	770,602
St. Martin Parish, LA	23,995	529,553
St. Mary Parish, LA	24,718	462,141
Tangipahoa Parish, LA	71,240	1,359,158
Tensas Parish, LA	1,723	31,795
Terrebonne Parish, LA	51,103	1,075,544
Union Parish, LA	9,421	219,852
Washington Parish, LA	20,130	408,416
West Carroll Parish, LA	5,020	84,665
Winn Parish, LA	4,882	111,143
Combined Area Total	1,075,151	20,870,130
Combined Unemployment Rate	5.2%	
20% Above National Average Threshold	5.2%	

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 33 parishes listed on page 2. The caseload in these parishes is 221,280 cases (49.26%) with 440,360 (48.40%) household members. There are a total of 38,146 ABAWDs in the 33 parishes affected. This data is as of April 30, 2023. 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 October 1, 2023 through September 30, 2024.

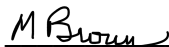
13. Proposed quality control review procedures:

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

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

Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services
Timothy Jenkins

15. Signature and title of requesting official:



Title: Deputy Assistant Secretary

Email for transmission of response: Monica.Brown.DCFS@la.gov

16. Date of request: May 30, 2023

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

Timothy Jenkins

Timothy.Jenkins.DCFS@la.gov

(225) 342-9381

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