

STATE WAIVER REQUEST

1. **Waiver Serial Number:** 2150045
2. **Type of request:** Amendment and extension
3. **Regulatory citation:** [7 CFR §273.24](#)
4. **State:** Pennsylvania
5. **Region:** Mid-Atlantic
6. **Regulatory requirements:** Section 6(o) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008, as amended, and regulations at [7 CFR §273.24](#) provide 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 three months during any three-year period in which the individual was subject to but did not comply with the ABAWD work requirement.

Pursuant to [7 CFR §273.24\(f\)](#), upon the request of the State agency, the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) may waive the applicability of time limit described above for any group of individuals in the state if FNS determines that the area in which the individuals reside does not have a sufficient number of jobs to provide employment for the individuals.

7. **Description of alternative procedures:**

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania is requesting to exempt able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWDs) in 58 counties and two balances of county from SNAP time limits at [7 CFR §273.24](#).

8. **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 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania seeks a waiver for one area of 12 contiguous counties and one contiguous balance of county for the period starting September 1, 2024 and ending August 31, 2025, based on the area's average unemployment rates during the 24-month period of February 2021 through January 2023. The national average unemployment rate for this 24-month period was 4.4 percent; 20 percent above this was 5.2 percent. The 12-county and one balance of county area's unemployment rate was also 5.2 percent for this period.

Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data February 2021 through January 2023		
	Unemployed	Labor Force
United States	170,958,000	3,911,729,000
U.S. National Rate	4.37%	
20% Above U.S. National Rate	5.2%	
Contiguous Area 1		
1. Berks County	249,371	5,106,688
2. Bucks County	343,970	8,349,178

Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data February 2021 through January 2023		
	Unemployed	Labor Force
3. Balance of Cumberland County	105,125	2,786,500
4. Dauphin County	160,832	3,490,755
5. Delaware County	334,464	7,173,211
6. Franklin County	74,806	1,865,661
7. Lehigh County	236,669	4,718,951
8. Monroe County	119,365	1,967,872
9. Montour County	7,812	220,050
10. Northampton County	181,232	3,920,776
11. Northumberland County	53,838	1,016,386
12. Philadelphia County	1,120,185	17,438,796
13. Schuylkill County	83,686	1,577,930
Combined Area Totals	3,071,355	59,632,754
Combined Area Unemployment Rate	5.2%	

Source: PA Department of Labor and Industry, Center for Workforce Information and Analysis (CWIA)

Note: Balance of County areas are defined by the U.S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration. The Balance of Cumberland County figures are equal to the corresponding CWIA data for Cumberland County minus the CWIA data for Hampden Township.

Additionally, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania seeks a waiver for a second area of 44 contiguous counties for the period starting September 1, 2024 and ending August 31, 2025, based on the area's average unemployment rates during the 24-month period of May 2021 through April 2023. The national average unemployment rate for this 24-month period was 4.0 percent; 20 percent above this was 4.8 percent. The 44-county area's unemployment rate was also 4.8 percent for this period.

Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data May 2021 through April 2023		
	Unemployed	Labor Force
United States	159,001,000	3,930,127,000
U.S. National Rate	4.04%	
20% Above U.S. National Rate	4.8%	
Contiguous Area 2		
1. Allegheny County	644,471	15,124,242
2. Beaver County	103,570	1,958,439
3. Bedford County	25,876	581,751
4. Blair County	62,391	1,414,611
5. Bradford County	28,040	674,874
6. Cambria County	70,429	1,330,790
7. Cameron County	2,698	46,757
8. Carbon County	38,743	777,335
9. Clearfield County	44,647	852,270
10. Clinton County	21,251	411,317
11. Columbia County	35,953	812,815
12. Crawford County	43,487	909,676
13. Elk County	17,200	353,225

Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data May 2021 through April 2023		
	Unemployed	Labor Force
14. Erie County	151,925	3,023,633
15. Fayette County	81,471	1,320,033
16. Forest County	2,613	41,176
17. Fulton County	7,328	172,497
18. Greene County	19,527	374,146
19. Huntingdon County	25,394	462,717
20. Indiana County	46,626	885,329
21. Jefferson County	22,636	469,764
22. Juniata County	12,218	299,826
23. Lackawanna County	119,694	2,507,763
24. Lawrence County	51,170	944,651
25. Luzerne County	210,212	3,783,083
26. Lycoming County	63,226	1,322,145
27. McKean County	21,469	405,574
28. Mercer County	57,358	1,147,690
29. Mifflin County	23,292	504,906
30. Perry County	20,968	589,169
31. Pike County	34,158	614,045
32. Potter County	9,327	166,265
33. Snyder County	19,726	473,918
34. Somerset County	40,480	782,277
35. Sullivan County	3,195	61,199
36. Susquehanna County	20,081	484,711
37. Tioga County	22,297	455,566
38. Union County	17,321	470,894
39. Venango County	25,983	516,209
40. Warren County	20,239	424,840
41. Washington County	115,756	2,507,112
42. Wayne County	26,880	543,536
43. Westmoreland County	191,557	4,206,047
44. Wyoming County	15,274	322,223
Combined Area Totals	2,638,157	55,531,046
Combined Area Unemployment Rate	4.8%	

Source: PA Department of Labor and Industry, Center for Workforce Information and Analysis (CWIA)

Additionally, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania seeks a waiver for a third area of two contiguous counties and one contiguous balance of county for the period starting September 1, 2024 and ending August 31, 2025, based on the area's average unemployment rates during the 24-month period of May 2021 through April 2023. The national average unemployment rate for this 24-month period was 4.0 percent; 20 percent above this was 4.8 percent. The two-county and one balance of county area's unemployment rate was also 4.8 percent for this period.

Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data		
May 2021 through April 2023		
	Unemployed	Labor Force
United States	159,001,000	3,930,127,000
U.S. National Rate	4.04%	
20% Above U.S. National Rate	4.8%	
Contiguous Area 3		
1. Armstrong County	40,300	746,891
2. Balance of Butler County	85,961	1,934,365
3. Clarion County	19,866	390,014
Combined Area Totals	146,127	3,071,270
Combined Area Unemployment Rate	4.8%	

Source: PA Department of Labor and Industry, Center for Workforce Information and Analysis (CWIA)

Note: Balance of County areas are defined by the U.S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration. The Balance of Butler County figures are equal to the corresponding CWIA data for Butler County minus the CWIA data for Cranberry Township.

Additionally, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania seeks a waiver for a fourth area of three contiguous municipalities for the period starting September 1, 2024 and ending August 31, 2025, based on the area's average unemployment rates during the 24-month period of February 2021 through January 2023. The national average unemployment rate for this 24-month period was 4.4 percent; 20 percent above this was 5.2 percent. The two-county and one balance of county area's unemployment rate was 5.8 percent for this period.

Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data		
February 2021 through January 2023		
	Unemployed	Labor Force
United States	170,958,000	3,911,729,000
U.S. National Rate	4.37%	
20% Above U.S. National Rate	5.2%	
Contiguous Area 4		
1. Springettsbury Township	13,539	311,684
2. York City	36,576	428,785
3. York Township	13,350	362,223
Combined Area Totals	63,465	1,102,692
Combined Area Unemployment Rate	5.8%	

Source: PA Department of Labor and Industry, Center for Workforce Information and Analysis (CWIA)

Additionally, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania seeks a waiver for one municipality for the period starting September 1, 2024 and ending August 31, 2025, based on the municipality's average unemployment rates during the 24-month period of January 2021 through December 2022. The national average unemployment rate for this 24-month period was 4.5 percent; 20 percent above this was 5.4 percent. The municipality's unemployment rate was 5.4 percent for this period.

Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data January 2021 through December 2022		
	Unemployed	Labor Force
United States	175,431,000	3,905,893,000
U.S. National Rate	4.49%	
20% Above U.S. National Rate	5.4%	
Individual Municipality		
1. Municipality of Norristown	23,791	443,271
Unemployment Rate	5.4%	

Source: PA Department of Labor and Industry, Center for Workforce Information and Analysis (CWIA)

9. 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.

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

The caseload for these areas represents 91 percent of the caseload for the state. There are no quality control procedures involved.

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

Pennsylvania is requesting a one-year waiver, from September 1, 2024 through August 31, 2025.

12. Proposed quality control review procedures:

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

13. State agency submitting waiver request and state contact person:

Pennsylvania Department of Human Services
Office of Income Maintenance
Hoa Pham
Deputy Secretary

14. Signature and title of requesting official:



Deputy Secretary

15. Date of request: June 28, 2024

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

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