

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 60 counties 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 60 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 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 60-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. Allegheny County	703,398	15,135,520
2. Armstrong County	43,700	748,034
3. Beaver County	111,324	1,960,035

**Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data
February 2021 through January 2023**

	Unemployed	Labor Force
4. Bedford County	27,560	579,703
5. Berks County	249,371	5,106,688
6. Blair County	67,324	1,417,636
7. Bradford County	30,103	674,099
8. Bucks County	343,970	8,349,178
9. Butler County	105,402	2,362,222
10. Cambria County	75,304	1,333,126
11. Cameron County	2,880	47,166
12. Carbon County	41,492	775,488
13. Centre County	69,518	1,862,380
14. Clarion County	21,019	392,402
15. Clearfield County	47,894	854,029
16. Clinton County	22,607	411,751
17. Columbia County	38,120	810,276
18. Crawford County	47,143	910,710
19. Dauphin County	160,832	3,490,755
20. Delaware County	334,464	7,173,211
21. Elk County	18,787	354,659
22. Erie County	167,059	3,028,693
23. Fayette County	88,761	1,323,321
24. Forest County	2,799	41,376
25. Franklin County	74,806	1,865,661
26. Fulton County	8,052	172,091
27. Greene County	21,363	375,091
28. Huntingdon County	27,147	462,570
29. Indiana County	50,064	888,556
30. Jefferson County	24,416	470,572
31. Juniata County	12,868	300,279
32. Lackawanna County	130,275	2,504,203
33. Lawrence County	55,602	946,928
34. Lehigh County	236,669	4,718,951
35. Luzerne County	229,676	3,781,507
36. Lycoming County	68,731	1,324,704
37. McKean County	22,800	406,714
38. Mercer County	62,737	1,149,530
39. Mifflin County	24,887	504,454
40. Monroe County	119,365	1,967,872
41. Montour County	7,812	220,050
42. Northampton County	181,232	3,920,776
43. Northumberland County	53,838	1,016,386
44. Perry County	22,371	587,433
45. Philadelphia County	1,120,185	17,438,796
46. Pike County	36,035	612,148
47. Potter County	9,815	167,406
48. Schuylkill County	83,686	1,577,930
49. Snyder County	20,613	473,174

Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data February 2021 through January 2023		
	Unemployed	Labor Force
50. Somerset County	43,295	783,297
51. Sullivan County	3,523	61,281
52. Susquehanna County	21,433	484,236
53. Tioga County	23,868	456,135
54. Union County	18,357	470,443
55. Venango County	28,011	519,289
56. Warren County	21,939	427,806
57. Washington County	127,062	2,510,697
58. Wayne County	28,765	543,243
59. Westmoreland County	207,480	4,209,361
60. Wyoming County	16,349	321,583
Combined Area Totals	6,065,958	117,783,611
Combined Area Unemployment Rate	5.2%	

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

Additionally, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania seeks a waiver for a second 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 2		
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 90 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*):