

STATE WAIVER REQUEST

1. **Waiver Serial Number:**
2. **Type of request:** Initial
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 two municipalities 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. Pursuant to [7 CFR §273.24\(f\)\(5\)](#), FNS may approve waivers for a period exceeding 12 months if the reasons are compelling. Under FNS guidance, to support this claim, states may submit evidence that an area was designated as a labor surplus area by the Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration for a minimum of two consecutive fiscal years, including the fiscal year in which the request was made and the fiscal year prior to the request. Under the guidance, states may also support the claim by submitting evidence that an area had an unemployment greater than 20 percent above the national average for a 36-month period, ending no earlier than three months prior to the request.

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania seeks a waiver for Lancaster City for the period starting September 1, 2024 and ending August 31, 2026, based on its designation as a Labor Surplus Area by the Department of Labor Employment and Training Administration in both federal fiscal year 2023 and federal fiscal year 2024.

Source: U.S. Department of Labor Employment and Training Administration, FY24 Labor Surplus Area List, retrieved from <https://www.dol.gov/sites/dolgov/files/ETA/lssa/pdfs/LSA-FRN-FY2024.pdf>.

Source: U.S. Department of Labor Employment and Training Administration, FY23 Labor Surplus Area List, retrieved from <https://www.dol.gov/sites/dolgov/files/ETA/lssa/pdfs/FY%202023%20LSA.xlsx>.

In addition to meeting the LSA criteria, the unemployment rate for Lancaster City also exceeded the national unemployment rate by 20 percent for the 36-month period of April 2021 through March 2024. The national

average unemployment rate for this 36-month period was 4.0 percent; 20 percent above this was 4.8 percent. Lancaster City's unemployment rate was 4.8 percent for the same period.

In addition, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania seeks a waiver for Lebanon City for the period starting September 1, 2024 and ending August 31, 2026, based on its unemployment during the 36-month period of April 2021 through March 2024. The national average unemployment rate for this 36-month period was 4.0 percent; 20 percent above this was 4.8 percent. Lebanon City's unemployment rate was 5.2 percent for the same period.

Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data		
April 2021 through March 2024		
	Unemployed	Labor Force
United States	237,500,000	5,933,324,000
U.S. National Rate	4.00%	
20% Above U.S. National Rate	4.8%	
Individual Municipality 1		
1. Lancaster City	46,639	979,471
Unemployment Rate	4.8%	
Individual Municipality 2		
2. Lebanon City	22,343	427,292
Unemployment Rate	5.2%	

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

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

The caseload for these areas represent 1 percent of the caseload for the state. There are no quality control procedures involved.

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

Pennsylvania is requesting a two-year waiver, from September 1, 2024 through August 31, 2026, based on the criteria described in Section IX of FNS's *Guide to Supporting Requests to Waive the Time Limit*.

11. Proposed quality control review procedures:

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

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

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

13. Signature and title of requesting official:



Deputy Secretary

14. Date of request: June 28, 2024

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

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