

## 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. 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 two municipalities for the period starting September 1, 2024 and ending August 31, 2025, based on each municipality'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. Lancaster City's unemployment rate was 5.9 percent for this period and Lebanon City's unemployment rate was 6.5 percent for this period.

| Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data<br>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%        |               |
|                                                                                               |             |               |
| Individual Municipality 1                                                                     |             |               |
| 1. Lancaster City                                                                             | 38,737      | 654,241       |
| Unemployment Rate                                                                             | 5.9%        |               |

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

| Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data<br>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%        |               |
| Individual Municipality 2                                                                     |             |               |
| 1. Lebanon City                                                                               | 18,517      | 283,607       |
| Unemployment Rate                                                                             | 6.5%        |               |

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 one-year waiver, from September 1, 2024 through August 31, 2025.

**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:**




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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*):**