

ABLE-BODIED ADULTS WITHOUT DEPENDENTS (ABAWD) WAIVER REQUEST

1. **Type of request:** Extension
2. **Statutory citation:** Section 6(o) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008, as amended
3. **Regulatory citation:** 7 CFR 273.24
4. **State:** Virginia
5. **Region:** Mid-Atlantic
6. **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.
7. **Description of alternative procedures:** As allowed by regulations at 7 CFR 273.24(f), Virginia requests to waive the work requirement for residents of 12 areas where the unemployment rate for a 24-month period exceeds the national average by 20 percent. For 10 localities, on an individual and regional grouping basis, the 24-month period covers February 2021 through January 2023. For two localities, the 24-month period covers May 2021 through April 2023

Supporting unemployment data and labor force data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) is provided. A map is also provided to identify the specified localities.

Locality	Average unemployment rate: February 2021 – January 2023
Danville City	5.3
Hopewell City	5.6
Martinsville City	5.7
Regional Grouping	Average unemployment rate: February 2021 – January 2023
Brunswick County	5.2
Dinwiddie County	3.7
Emporia City	5.9
Greensville County	4.2
Petersburg City	7.5
Surry County	3.2
Sussex County	5.1
Regional Grouping Average	5.2

National Rate	5.2
Regional Grouping	Average unemployment rate: May 2021 – April 2023
Buchanan County	5.0
Dickenson County	4.4
Regional Grouping Average	4.8
National Rate	4.8

8. **Justification for request:** The twelve counties and independent cities, listed above, have a 24-month unemployment rate that is 20 percent greater than the national rate. In the instance where a regional grouping is used, the localities are contiguous. The region's aggregate average unemployment rate is equal to the national threshold.

9. **Anticipated impact on households and State agency operations:** This waiver will provide consistency for households and local departments of social services operations in areas where unemployment is higher than the national average.

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

For the period January 2024 through April 2024, the average caseload for the proposed waived areas was 95,153. This represents 6.1 percent of the caseload for the state.

During the sample period October through December 2023, only half of the proposed areas had cases selected for quality control reviews. One case was determined to be in error.

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

The projected implementation period for this waiver is July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025.

12. **Proposed quality control review procedures:**

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

13. **Name, title, email, and signature of requesting official:**

Name: Angela Morse

Title: Director of Benefit Programs

Email: angela.morese@dss.virginia.gov

Signature:



14. **Date of request:** May 24, 2024

15. **State agency staff contact:**

Name: Michele Thomas

Title: SNAP Manager

Email: michele.thomas@dss.virginia.gov

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