

STATE WAIVER REQUEST

1. **Waiver Serial Number (if applicable):** 2150017
2. **Type of request:** Initial
3. **Statutory citation:** Section 6(o) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008
4. **Regulatory citation:** 7 CFR 273.24
5. **State:** Wisconsin
6. **Region:** Midwest
7. **Regulatory requirements:**

Under 7 CFR 273.24(b) individuals are not 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 SNAP work requirements. Regulations at 273.24(a) provide that fulfilling the work requirement means: working 20 hours or more per week, averaged monthly; participating in and complying with the requirements of a work program or a workfare program for at least 20 hours per week; or any combination of working and participating in a work program for a total of 20 hours per week.

Under 7 CFR 273.24(f), upon the request of a State agency, the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) may waive the applicability of the time limit described above for any group of individuals in the State if FNS makes a determination that the area in which the individuals reside does not have a sufficient number of jobs to provide employment for the individuals.
8. **Description of alternative procedures:**

The State of Wisconsin is requesting to exempt able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWDs) in 4 counties, 2 cities and 10 reservations from SNAP time limits at 7 CFR 273.24.
9. **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 is designated as a Labor Surplus Area (LSA) by the Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration, or 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 State of Wisconsin seeks a waiver for four individual counties based on their average unemployment rates for the 24-month period of February 2021 through January 2023 that are at least 20 percent above the national average for the same period. The national average unemployment rate for this 24-month period was 4.4 percent; 20 percent above this was 5.2 percent.

Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data February 2021 – January 2023			
County	Total Unemployed	Total Labor Force	Unemploy- ment Rate
Adams County, WI	10,099	187,026	5.4%
Forest County, WI	5,126	92,526	5.5%
Iron County, WI	3,433	60,744	5.7%
Menominee County, WI	2,511	36,762	6.8%
20% Above National Average Threshold	5.2%		

The State also seeks a waiver for two individual cities based on their average unemployment rates for 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.

Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data February 2021 – January 2023			
City	Total Unemployed	Total Labor Force	Unemploy- ment Rate
Milwaukee city, WI	336,982	6,507,985	5.2%
Racine city, WI	43,606	831,834	5.2%
20% Above National Average Threshold	5.2%		

The State requests to waive the following reservations based on having an average unemployment rate exceeding the national average for a recent 24-month period. The national average unemployment rate for this 24-month period was 4.4 percent; 20 percent above this was 5.2 percent. The reservation unemployment rates were calculated by applying 2017-2021 American Community Survey¹ share ratios to county-level Bureau of Labor Statistics data from February 2021 through January 2023. The following table summarizes the calculations:

American Community Survey and Bureau of Labor Statistics Data February 2021 through January 2023

¹ These calculations are based on data from the 2017-2021 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates.

Reservations	Unemployed	Labor Force	Unemployment Rate
Ashland County (part); Wisconsin (part); Bad River Reservation, WI	2,041	17,303	11.8%
Iron County (part); Wisconsin (part); Bad River Reservation, WI	0	0	-
Total Bad River Reservation	2,041	17,303	11.8%
Forest County (part); Wisconsin (part); Forest County Potawatomi Community and Off-Reservation Trust Land, WI	2,166	4,218	51.3%
Milwaukee County (part); Wisconsin (part); Forest County Potawatomi Community and Off-Reservation Trust Land, WI	0	0	-
Oconto County (part); Wisconsin (part); Forest County Potawatomi Community and Off-Reservation Trust Land, WI	0	0	-
Total Forest County Reservation	2,166	4,218	51.3%
Adams County (part); Wisconsin (part); Ho-Chunk Nation Reservation and Off-Reservation Trust Land, WI--MN	0	0	-
Clark County (part); Wisconsin (part); Ho-Chunk Nation Reservation and Off-Reservation Trust Land, WI--MN	0	154	0.0%
Crawford County (part); Wisconsin (part); Ho-Chunk Nation Reservation and Off-Reservation Trust Land, WI--MN	0	70	0.0%
Dane County (part); Wisconsin (part); Ho-Chunk Nation Reservation and Off-Reservation Trust Land, WI--MN	0	0	-
Eau Claire County (part); Wisconsin (part); Ho-Chunk Nation Reservation and Off-Reservation Trust Land, WI--MN	0	0	-
Jackson County (part); Wisconsin (part); Ho-Chunk Nation Reservation and Off-Reservation Trust Land, WI--MN	968	5,118	18.9%
Juneau County (part); Wisconsin (part); Ho-Chunk Nation Reservation and Off-Reservation Trust Land, WI--MN	0	605	0.0%
La Crosse County (part); Wisconsin (part); Ho-Chunk Nation Reservation and Off-Reservation Trust Land, WI--MN	0	73	0.0%

Marathon County (part); Wisconsin (part); Ho-Chunk Nation Reservation and Off-Reservation Trust Land, WI--MN	0	0	-
Monroe County (part); Wisconsin (part); Ho-Chunk Nation Reservation and Off-Reservation Trust Land, WI--MN	169	1,219	13.9%
Sauk County (part); Wisconsin (part); Ho-Chunk Nation Reservation and Off-Reservation Trust Land, WI--MN	441	1,626	27.1%
Shawano County (part); Wisconsin (part); Ho-Chunk Nation Reservation and Off-Reservation Trust Land, WI--MN	24	697	3.5%
Vernon County (part); Wisconsin (part); Ho-Chunk Nation Reservation and Off-Reservation Trust Land, WI--MN	0	0	-
Wood County (part); Wisconsin (part); Ho-Chunk Nation Reservation and Off-Reservation Trust Land, WI--MN	193	1,155	16.7%
Total Ho-Chunk Nation Reservation	1,795	10,716	16.8%
Burnett County (part); Wisconsin (part); Lac Courte Oreilles Reservation and Off-Reservation Trust Land, WI	0	0	-
Sawyer County (part); Wisconsin (part); Lac Courte Oreilles Reservation and Off-Reservation Trust Land, WI	2,833	30,499	9.3%
Washburn County (part); Wisconsin (part); Lac Courte Oreilles Reservation and Off-Reservation Trust Land, WI	0	0	-
Total Lac Courte Oreilles Reservation	2,833	30,499	9.3%
Iron County (part); Wisconsin (part); Lac du Flambeau Reservation, WI	0	108	0.0%
Oneida County (part); Wisconsin (part); Lac du Flambeau Reservation, WI	0	342	0.0%
Vilas County (part); Wisconsin (part); Lac du Flambeau Reservation, WI	2,551	35,959	7.1%
Total Lac du Flambeau Reservation	2,551	36,408	7.0%
Menominee County (part); Wisconsin (part); Menominee Reservation and Off-Reservation Trust Land, WI	2,405	28,534	8.4%

Shawano County (part); Wisconsin (part); Menominee Reservation and Off-Reservation Trust Land, WI	0	937	0.0%
Total Menominee Reservation	2,405	29,471	8.2%
Bayfield County (part); Wisconsin (part); Red Cliff Reservation and Off-Reservation Trust Land, WI	2,243	15,874	14.1%
Total Red Cliff Reservation	2,243	15,874	14.1%
Barron County (part); Wisconsin (part); St. Croix Reservation and Off-Reservation Trust Land, WI	0	906	0.0%
Burnett County (part); Wisconsin (part); St. Croix Reservation and Off-Reservation Trust Land, WI	267	3,266	8.2%
Polk County (part); Wisconsin (part); St. Croix Reservation and Off-Reservation Trust Land, WI	480	2,029	23.7%
Total St. Croix Reservation	747	6,201	12.0%
Forest County (part); Wisconsin (part); Sokaogon Chippewa Community and Off-Reservation Trust Land, WI	1,014	5,072	20.0%
Total Sokaogon Chippewa Community	1,014	5,072	20.0%
Shawano County (part); Wisconsin (part); Stockbridge Munsee Community and Off-Reservation Trust Land, WI	412	6,615	6.2%
Total Stockbridge Munsee Community	412	6,615	6.2%

10. 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.

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

In July 2023 there were 371,747 FoodShare assistance groups, with 705,223 members. Areas included in this geographic waiver request area represent 34.88% of the caseload for the state. In July 2023, there were 33,584 non-exempt ABAWDs total in the state that would be at risk of receiving a countable month. Wisconsin's QC error rate for FFY22 was under 5%.

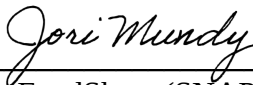
12. Anticipated implementation date and time period for which waiver is needed:
The State is requesting a one-year waiver, from October 1, 2023 through September 30, 2024.

13. Proposed quality control review procedures:
There are no special quality control procedures needed in conjunction with this waiver.

14. State agency submitting waiver request and State contact person:
Wisconsin Department of Health Services

State Contact Person: Jori Mundy

15. Signature and title of requesting official:



Title: FoodShare (SNAP) Director
Email for transmission of response: Jori.Mundy@dhs.wisconsin.gov

16. Date of request: 08/23/2023

17. State agency staff contact (name/email/telephone):
Stevey Poppe, FoodShare and FSET Policy Section Manager
Stevey.Pope@dhs.wisconsin.gov
414-335-4791

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