



Nicholas A. Toumpas
Commissioner

Terry R. Smith
Director

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF FAMILY ASSISTANCE

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August 30, 2013

SEP - 6 2013

Bonnie Brathwaite
Food Stamp Program
USDA/FNS, Northeast Region
10 Causeway Street
Boston, MA 02222

Dear Ms. Brathwaite:

Enclosed, please find New Hampshire's request for a retroactive waiver to exempt certain identified Able Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWDS) from the ABAWD employment and training requirements for Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2013. Documentation supporting the State's request is also enclosed. New Hampshire has additional lengthier and more detailed documentation and would be happy to forward it at your request.

The identified ABAWDs for whom the exemption is sought live in the towns of Dummer, Errol, Milan, Stark, Stewartstown, Stratford and Wentworth, New Hampshire. In total, there are 45 individuals in these towns who meet the unemployment waiver requirements.

New Hampshire's waiver request is based on 7 CFR 273.24(f), which allows the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) to waive employment and training requirements for ABAWDs if the area in which the individuals live has either an unemployment rate above 10.0% or does not have a sufficient number of jobs to provide employment for those individuals.

The ABAWD individuals in the towns named above have met waiver exemption requirements for the entirety of FFY 2013. All reside in the catchment area served by the Berlin District Office. However, the State agency decided to use its 15% ABAWD exemptions to exempt the entire Berlin and Littleton District Offices, rather than request a separate waiver for these particular towns. No towns located within the Littleton District catchment area meet the 7 CFR 273.24(f) waiver requirements.

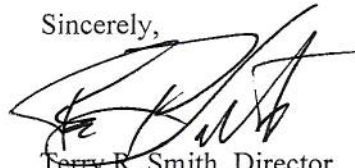
The State has since discovered that the data provided to make this decision was faulty and is currently in the position of having overspent its 15% and is requesting this retroactive waiver in order to regain some of the overused slots.

New Hampshire is aware that FNS has approved retroactive waivers in the past, including at least one that included a full fiscal year. We are sure that FNS will give the State's waiver request the same consideration and are most hopeful for the same outcome.

If you have any questions, please contact Laurie A. Green, the Food Stamp Program Manager, at 603-271-9283.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Terry R. Smith", is written over the typed name.

Terry R. Smith, Director
Division of Family Assistance

AREAS IN NEW HAMPSHIRE THAT ARE ELIGIBLE FOR WAIVERS ON THE BASIS OF
MAR 10-FEB 2012
UNEMPLOYMENT RATES

Step 1
Step 2
Step 3
Step 4

Please see worksheet entitled "Step 1" for monthly labor force numbers
Please see worksheet entitled "Step 2" for 3-month labor force totals
Please see worksheet entitled "Step 3" for monthly unemployed numbers
Please see worksheet entitled "Step 4" for 3-month unemployed totals

	from Step 2 MAR 10-FEB 2012	from Step 4 MAR 10-FEB 2012	Step 5 MAR 10-FEB 2012	Step 6 MAR 10-FEB 2012	Step 7 MAR 10-FEB 2012
	Total labor force	Total number of unemployed	Average Unemployment Rate (unrounded)	Average Unemployment Rate (multiply by 100)	Average Unemployment Rate (one decimal place)
Hart's Location Town	554	81	0.14621	14.62	14.6
Stark Town	5,810	670	0.11532	11.53	11.5
Stratford Town	8,520	1,008	0.11831	11.83	11.8
Wentworth Location	417	74	0.17746	17.74	17.7
National Unemployment	3,692,101	338,039	0.09156	9.15	9.2
20% Above National Unemployment					11.0

AREAS IN NEW HAMPSHIRE THAT ARE ELIGIBLE FOR WAIVERS ON THE BASIS OF
JUN 11-MAY 12
UNEMPLOYMENT RATES

Step 1
Step 2
Step 3
Step 4

Please see worksheet entitled "Step 1" for monthly labor force numbers
Please see worksheet entitled "Step 2" for 3-month labor force totals
Please see worksheet entitled "Step 3" for monthly unemployed numbers
Please see worksheet entitled "Step 4" for 3-month unemployed totals

	from Step 2 12 mo JUN 11-MAY 12	from Step 4 12 mo JUN 11-MAY 12	Step 5 JUN 11-MAY 12	Step 6 JUN 11-MAY 12	Step 7 JUN 11-MAY 12
	Total labor force	Total number of unemployed	Average Unemployment Rate (unrounded)	Average Unemployment Rate (multiply by 100)	Average Unemployment Rate (one decimal place)
Dummer Town	1,888	191	0.10117	10.11	10.1
Errol Town	1,921	218	0.11348	11.34	11.3
Unemployment Threshold					10.0

AREAS IN NEW HAMPSHIRE THAT ARE ELIGIBLE FOR WAIVERS ON THE BASIS OF
FEB 09 - JAN 11
UNEMPLOYMENT RATES

Step 1	Please see worksheet entitled "Step 1" for monthly labor force numbers
Step 2	Please see worksheet entitled "Step 2" for 3-month labor force totals
Step 3	Please see worksheet entitled "Step 3" for monthly unemployed numbers
Step 4	Please see worksheet entitled "Step 4" for 3-month unemployed totals

	from Step 2 FEB 09 - JAN 11	from Step 4 FEB 09 - JAN 11	Step 5 FEB 09 - JAN 11 Average Unemployment Rate (unrounded)	Step 5 FEB 09 - JAN 11 Average Unemployment Rate (4 decimal places)	Step 6 FEB 09 - JAN 11 Average Unemployment Rate (multiply by 100)	Step 7 FEB 09 - JAN 11 Average Unemployment Rate (one decimal place)
Stewartstown town	11,479	1,366	0.11900	0.1189	11.89	11.9
National Unemployment	3,695,924	351,170	0.09502	0.0950	9.50	9.5
20% Above National Unemployment						11.4

AREAS IN NEW HAMPSHIRE THAT ARE ELIGIBLE FOR WAIVERS ON THE BASIS OF
NOV 10-OCT 11
UNEMPLOYMENT RATES

Step 1	Please see worksheet entitled "Step 1" for monthly labor force numbers
Step 2	Please see worksheet entitled "Step 2" for 3-month labor force totals
Step 3	Please see worksheet entitled "Step 3" for monthly unemployed numbers
Step 4	Please see worksheet entitled "Step 4" for 3-month unemployed totals

	from Step 2 12 mo NOV 10-OCT 11	from Step 4 12 mo NOV 10-OCT 11	Step 5 NOV 10-OCT 11 Average Unemployment Rate (unrounded)	Step 5 NOV 10-OCT 11 Average Unemployment Rate (4 decimal places)	Step 6 NOV 10-OCT 11 Average Unemployment Rate (multiply by 100)	Step 7 NOV 10-OCT 11 Average Unemployment Rate (one decimal place)
Milan town	8,732	893	0.10227	0.1022	10.22	10.2
Unemployment Threshold						10.0

WAIVER REQUEST

1. Waiver serial number:
2030062
2. Type of request:
Modification
3. Primary regulation citation, if any:
Section 6 (o) of the Food Stamp Act, as amended by Section 824 of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act (PRWORA) of 1996, P.L. 104-193.
4. Secondary regulation citation, if any:
7 CFR 273.24 (f)(3)
5. State:
New Hampshire
6. Region:
NERO
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, during the preceding 36-month period, the individual received SNAP benefits for not less than 3 months (consecutive or otherwise), during which the individual did not work 20 hours or more per week, averaged monthly; participate in and comply with the requirements of a work program for 20 hours or more per week; or participate in and comply with requirements of a program under Section 20 or a comparable program established by the State.

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 above provision for any group of individuals in the State if the FNS 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.
8. Proposed procedures:

The State of New Hampshire is requesting to exempt from these requirements individuals residing in the following four towns. These areas are eligible based on having average unemployment rates of at least 20 percent above the national average during March 2010-February 2012. These areas had an average unemployment rate of at least 11.0 percent during March 2010-February 2012. The national average plus 20 percent during this period was 11.0.

AREA	UNEMPLOYMENT RATE, MAR 2010 – FEB 2012
Hart's Location Town	14.6
Stark Town	11.5
Stratford Town	11.8
Wentworth Location	17.7
National Average Plus 20 Percent	11.0

The State would like to request to exempt individuals in one town based on an average unemployment rate exceeding the national average during February 2009-January 2011. The national average plus 20 percent during this period was 11.4.

AREA	UNEMPLOYMENT RATE, FEB 2009-JAN 2011
Stewartstown town	11.9
National Average Plus 20 Percent	11.4

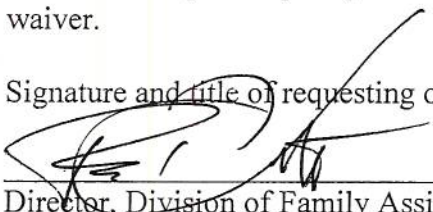
The State would also like to request to exempt individuals in two towns with an average unemployment rate exceeding 10 percent for a recent 12-month period. These towns had an average unemployment rate exceeding 10 percent for the period of June 2011-May 2012.

AREA	UNEMPLOYMENT RATE, JUN 2011 – MAY 2012
Dummer Town	10.1
Errol Town	11.3
Threshold	10.0

Finally, the State would like to request to exempt individuals in one town based on an average unemployment rate exceeding 10 percent for the period of November 2010-October 2011.

AREA	UNEMPLOYMENT RATE, NOV 2010- OCT 2011
Milan Town	10.2
Threshold	10.0

9. Justification for request:
As stated in number 8 above, the areas requested have an average unemployment rate of at least 20 percent above the national average during a recent 24-month period, or have an average unemployment rate exceeding 10 percent for a recent 12-month period. All of the raw data supporting our numbers that we have used are from the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) website, and are included with the request.
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, characteristic, and quality control error rate for affected portion:
The caseload for these areas, as of July 31, 2013, represents .065% of the caseload for the state. There are no quality control procedures involved
12. Anticipated implementation date and time period for which waiver is needed:
The State is requesting a waiver to cover the period of October 1, 2012 through September 30, 2013.
13. Proposed quality control review procedures:
There are no special quality control procedures needed in conjunction with this waiver.
14. Signature and title of requesting official:


Director, Division of Family Assistance
15. Date of request:
August 30, 2013