

STATE WAIVER REQUEST

1. **Waiver Serial Number (if applicable):** 2150019
2. **Type of request:** Modification and Extension
3. **Statutory citation:** Section 6(o) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008
4. **Regulatory citation:** 7 CFR 273.24
5. **State:** California
6. **Region:** WRO
7. **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.
8. **Description of alternative procedures:** The State of California is requesting to exempt able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWDs) in the entire state from SNAP time limits at 7 CFR 273.24 for 12 months.
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 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 California seeks a waiver based on the state having an average unemployment rate greater than 20 percent above the national average for the 24-month period of January 2022 through December 2023. California's average unemployment rate for this 24-month period was 4.5 percent. The national average for this period 3.6 percent; 20 percent above this was 4.4 percent.

Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data January 2022 through December 2023

	Unemployed	Labor force
California	20,884,597	461,731,528
Unemployment Rate	4.5%	
20% Above the National Average Unemployment Rate Threshold	4.4%	

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):

The caseload for these areas, as of **October 1, 2023**, represent **6.95%** 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 one-year waiver, from November 1, 2024 through October 31, 2025.

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:

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California Department of Social Services
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15. Signature and title of requesting official:


Andrea Brayboy (UCLB, 8/24 14:30 PDT)

Andrea D. Brayboy
CalFresh and Nutrition Branch Chief
California Department of Social Services
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16. Date of request: July 16, 2024

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

Andrea D. Brayboy
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18. Regional office contact person (*to be completed by FNS regional office*):

Signature: 
Andrea Brayboy (JUL 10, 2024 14:30 PDT)

Email: Andrea.Brayboy@dss.ca.gov

Title: Chief, CalFresh and Nutrition Branch

Company: STATE OF CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL