

STATE WAIVER REQUEST

1. **Waiver Serial Number (if applicable):** 2150020
2. **Type of request:** Amendment and extension
3. **Statutory citation:** Section 6(o) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008, as amended
4. **Regulatory citation:** 7 CFR 273.24
5. **State:** Connecticut
6. **Region:** NERO
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 Connecticut is requesting to exempt able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWDs) in 68 towns and cities 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 has an average unemployment rate for a 24-month 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 Connecticut seeks a waiver for one individual town as well as two regions. The two regions consist of 50 contiguous cities and towns and 17 contiguous cities and towns, respectively, based on each region's combined average

unemployment rate that is 20% above the national average for the 24-month period of February 2022 through January 2024.

The national average unemployment rate for this 24-month period was 4.6%; 20% above this was 4.3%. The individual town as well as the 2 region's average unemployment rates for this period are 4.3%.

Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data February 2022 through January 2024		
Individual Town	Total Labor Force	Total Unemployed
Putnam	115,921	4,998
Town Unemployment Rate	4.3%	
20% Above National Average Threshold	4.3%	

Region 1

Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data February 2022 through January 2024		
Cities/Towns	Total Labor Force	Total Unemployed
Ansonia	220,861	12,031
Avon	226,811	7,159
Beacon Falls	85,416	3,087
Berlin	282,621	9,255
Bethany	78,366	2,492
Bloomfield	282,502	11,564
Bridgeport	1,640,036	89,202
Bristol	789,209	34,738
Burlington	138,015	4,240
Canton	137,038	4,327
Cheshire	387,186	11,060
Derby	158,399	7,521
East Hartford	644,792	30,394
East Haven	389,155	16,105
Fairfield	714,974	26,746
Farmington	342,093	10,554
Hamden	872,074	30,824
Hartford	1,248,696	76,125
Harwinton	76,923	2,517
Manchester	786,068	29,877
Meriden	788,647	34,753
Middlebury	96,375	3,318
Milford	738,975	26,297

Naugatuck	409,695	18,343
New Britain	873,860	45,785
New Hartford	94,943	2,912
New Haven	1,607,644	70,812
Newington	410,154	13,687
Newtown	341,257	11,788
North Branford	203,542	6,768
Orange	181,875	5,335
Oxford	176,565	6,022
Plainville	249,768	9,492
Plymouth	157,999	7,005
Prospect	135,609	4,678
Seymour	214,694	9,499
Shelton	530,902	21,709
Southington	593,491	20,237
Stratford	652,558	30,163
Thomaston	112,886	4,018
Torrington	453,846	19,304
Trumbull	426,609	16,046
Wallingford	647,927	21,191
Waterbury	1,193,947	72,134
Watertown	309,253	11,007
West Hartford	831,036	25,355
West Haven	743,870	30,123
Weston	104,723	3,894
Wolcott	237,876	8,600
Woodbridge	115,400	3,372
Total for Region	23,137,161	983,465
Combined Region Unemployment Rate	4.3%	
20% Above National Average Threshold	4.3%	

Region 2

Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data February 2022 through January 2024		
Cities/Towns	Total Labor Force	Total Unemployed
Bozrah	35,874	1,077
Franklin	24,955	846
Griswold	148,527	6,365
Lebanon	96,716	3,478
Lisbon	55,295	2,315
Montville	212,938	8,255

New London	282,142	14,505
Norwich	468,661	20,781
Plainfield	206,078	7,892
Preston	57,009	2,361
Salem	49,903	1,874
Scotland	22,823	711
Sprague	37,276	1,552
Sterling	48,553	2,160
Voluntown	34,279	1,311
Waterford	238,147	8,758
Windham	294,377	14,178
Total for Region	2,313,553	98,419
Combined Region Unemployment Rate	4.3%	
20% Above National Average Threshold	4.3%	

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 August 2023, represent 78.2% of the caseload for the state. There are no quality control procedures involved.

12. Anticipated implementation date and period for which waiver is needed:

The State is requesting a one-year waiver, from December 1, 2024 through November 30, 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:

Connecticut Department of Social Services

Daniel Giacomi, Division Director

Daniel.Giacomi@ct.gov

(860) 424-5080

15. Signature and title of requesting official:



Daniel Giacomi
Connecticut Department of Social Services
Daniel.Giacomi@ct.gov

16. Date of request: 10/4/2024

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

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