

STATE WAIVER REQUEST

1. **Waiver Serial Number (if applicable):**
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:** District of Columbia
6. **Region:** MARO
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 District of Columbia is requesting a waiver for the entire District from the SNAP 3-month time limit at 7 CFR §273.24 for 24 months.
9. **Justification for request:** This request to exempt residents residing in the entire state from the time limit in 7 CFR §273.24 due to having insufficient jobs is based on the District of Columbia having an average unemployment rate greater than 20 percent above the national average for the 36-month period of November 2021 to October 2024.
 - Per 7 CFR §273.24(f)(1)(ii): On the request of a State agency, the US Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) may waive the time limit for a group of individuals in the State if FNS determines that the area does not have a sufficient number of jobs to provide employment for the individuals
 - Per 7 CFR §273.24 (f)(2)(ii): To support a claim of lack of sufficient jobs, a State may submit evidence that an area (...) has a 24-month average unemployment rate 20 percent above the national average for the same 24-month period.
 - Guidance issued by FNS in February 2006 states that areas can be eligible for two-year waivers if they demonstrate that an area has “an unemployment rate

greater than 20 percent above the national average for a 36-month period, ending no earlier than three months prior to the request”.¹

The District of Columbia (District) seeks a two-year waiver for the entire District based on having an average unemployment rate greater than 20 percent above the national average for the 36-month period of November 2021 through October 2024. The District’s average unemployment rate for this 36-month period was 5.1 percent. The national average for this period was 3.8 percent; 20 percent above this was 4.5 percent.

Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data November 2021 through October 2024		
	Unemployed	Labor force
District of Columbia	752,782	14,272,378
Unemployment Rate	5.1%	
20% Above the National Average Unemployment Rate Threshold	4.5%	

10. Anticipated impact on households and State agency operations: This waiver will provide consistency for state operations and ensure that thousands of individuals facing a lack of sufficient jobs are able to maintain SNAP benefits.

11. Caseload information, including percent, characteristics, and quality control error rate for affection portion (if applicable): This waiver affects the entire District.

12. Anticipated implementation date and time period for which waiver is needed: The District is requesting a two-year waiver, from January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2026.

13. Proposed quality control review procedures: There are no quality control procedures involved.

14. State agency submitting waiver request and State contact person: Carla Drake

15. Signature and title of requesting official:

Name: Brian Campbell

Title: Interim Administrator, D.C. Department of Human Services, Economic Security Administration

Email: brian.campbell@dc.gov

Signature: *Brian Campbell*

16. Date of request: 12/12/24

¹ Memo dated February 3, 2006. “FSP – 2-Year Approval of Waivers of the Work Requirements for ABAWDs under 7 CFR 273.24.” <https://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/ABAWD/two-year-waiver-approval>

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

Name: Carla Drake

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