

STATE WAIVER REQUEST

1. **Waiver Serial Number (if applicable):** 2190025
2. **Type of request:** Amendment
3. **Statutory citation:** Section 6(o) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008
4. **Regulatory citation:** 7 CFR 273.24
5. **State:** Maine
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 Maine is requesting to exempt able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWDs) from SNAP time limits per 7 CFR 273.24, in 5 Labor Market Areas (LMAs), composed of 87 towns, and in an additional 126 towns.
9. **Justification for request:**

Under SNAP regulations at 7 CFR 273.24(f)(2), areas may support a claim of insufficient jobs by submitting evidence that an area has an average unemployment rate for a 24-month time period that exceeds the national average for the same 24-month period by 20 percent. 7 CFR 273.24(f)(6) provides that States may define areas to be waived.

The State of Maine seeks a waiver for 11 individual towns based on their average unemployment rate for the 24-month period of May 2022 through April 2024. The national average unemployment rate for this 24-month period was 3.6 percent; 20 percent above this was 4.4 percent.¹ These towns have an average unemployment rate at least 20 percent above the national average for the same time period.

¹ FNS rounding rules are applied, as indicated in [USDA's guide](#). Please see supplemental spreadsheet for calculations.

| Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data May 2022 through April 2024 | | | |
|--|---------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Individual Towns | Unemployed Total | Labor Force Total | Unemployment Rate |
| Aurora town, ME | 59 | 1,106 | 5.3% |
| Frenchville town, ME | 451 | 10,313 | 4.4% |
| Garland town, ME | 497 | 11,048 | 4.5% |
| Grand Isle town, ME | 187 | 4,211 | 4.4% |
| Hanover town, ME | 129 | 2,709 | 4.8% |
| Matinicus Isle plantation, ME | 41 | 874 | 4.7% |
| North Oxford unorganized, ME | 4 | 4 | 100.0% |
| Ogunquit town, ME | 487 | 11,044 | 4.4% |
| Osborn town, ME | 35 | 718 | 4.9% |
| Penobscot Indian Island Reservation, ME | 255 | 5,859 | 4.4% |
| Sweden town, ME | 175 | 3,646 | 4.8% |
| 20% Above National Average Threshold | 4.4% | | |

The State seeks a waiver for the Pittsfield Labor Market Area, composed of 11 towns, based on its average unemployment rate for the 24-month period of May 2022 through April 2024.² The average unemployment rate for this area was 4.6 percent.

| Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data May 2022 through April 2024 | | |
|--|---------------------|----------------------|
| Towns in Eligible Labor Market Area | Unemployed Total | Labor Force Total |
| <i>Pittsfield, ME LMA</i> | | |
| Corinna town, ME | 908 | 20,941 |
| Detroit town, ME | 408 | 9,288 |
| Harmony town, ME | 410 | 6,421 |
| Hartland town, ME | 848 | 16,739 |
| Kingsbury plantation, ME | 8 | 301 |
| Palmyra town, ME | 875 | 17,892 |
| Pittsfield town, ME | 1,843 | 40,295 |
| Plymouth town, ME | 583 | 14,774 |
| St. Albans town, ME | 875 | 19,123 |
| Troy town, ME | 430 | 10,332 |
| Wellington town, ME | 116 | 1,880 |
| Combined Area Total | 7,304 | 157,986 |

² A map and full listing of Labor Market Areas are available from the Maine Department of Labor Center for Workforce Research And Information, <https://www.maine.gov/labor/cwri/LMADefinitions.html>.

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|---|-------------|
| Combined Area Unemployment Rate | 4.6% |
| 20% Above National Average Threshold | 4.4% |

The State seeks a waiver for a regional group of 4 contiguous Labor Market Areas, composed of 76 towns, based on the region's aggregate average unemployment rate for the 24-month period of May 2022 to April 2024. The region's aggregate average unemployment rate for this period was 4.5 percent.³

| Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data May 2022 to April 2024 | | |
|---|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| Towns in Eligible Region of Labor Market Areas | Unemployed Total | Labor Force Total |
| <i>Calais, ME LMA</i> | | |
| Alexander town, ME | 167 | 5,342 |
| Baileyville town, ME | 649 | 15,850 |
| Baring plantation, ME | 101 | 2,790 |
| Calais city, ME | 1,090 | 30,107 |
| Charlotte town, ME | 159 | 2,848 |
| Codyville plantation, ME | 0 | 96 |
| Cooper town, ME | 40 | 1,435 |
| Crawford town, ME | 28 | 817 |
| Eastport city, ME | 602 | 11,255 |
| Grand Lake Stream plantation, ME | 38 | 874 |
| Meddybemps town, ME | 59 | 1,477 |
| North Washington unorganized, ME | 231 | 4,014 |
| Passamaquoddy Indian Township Reservation, ME | 255 | 4,483 |
| Passamaquoddy Pleasant Point Reservation, ME | 295 | 4,866 |
| Pembroke town, ME | 285 | 6,531 |
| Perry town, ME | 344 | 9,723 |
| Princeton town, ME | 346 | 8,494 |
| Robbinston town, ME | 179 | 5,936 |
| Talmadge town, ME | 28 | 375 |
| Topsfield town, ME | 87 | 2,154 |
| Vanceboro town, ME | 88 | 1,157 |
| Waite town, ME | 37 | 1,362 |
| | | |
| <i>Houlton, ME LMA</i> | | |
| Amity town, ME | 57 | 1,696 |
| Bancroft unorganized, ME | 14 | 251 |

³ The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics does not publish data for Glenwood plantation, Twombly Ridge unorganized and Whitney unorganized, but they are part of the eligible Labor Market areas of Lincoln and Millinocket, and are therefore included.

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------|--------|
| Cary plantation, ME | 44 | 1,867 |
| Crystal town, ME | 85 | 2,301 |
| Danforth town, ME | 445 | 4,440 |
| Dyer Brook town, ME | 116 | 2,217 |
| Hammond town, ME | 60 | 867 |
| Haynesville town, ME | 50 | 857 |
| Hersey town, ME | 48 | 261 |
| Hodgdon town, ME | 386 | 13,502 |
| Houlton town, ME | 1,954 | 55,763 |
| Island Falls town, ME | 281 | 6,723 |
| Kingman unorganized, ME | 60 | 1,722 |
| Linneus town, ME | 315 | 10,109 |
| Littleton town, ME | 296 | 9,674 |
| Ludlow town, ME | 136 | 4,339 |
| Macwahoc plantation, ME | 28 | 466 |
| Merrill town, ME | 90 | 3,832 |
| Monticello town, ME | 238 | 6,889 |
| Moro plantation, ME | 16 | 549 |
| Mount Chase town, ME | 107 | 1,262 |
| New Limerick town, ME | 151 | 5,994 |
| Oakfield town, ME | 326 | 5,915 |
| Orient town, ME | 57 | 1,348 |
| Patten town, ME | 484 | 10,392 |
| Reed plantation, ME | 118 | 1,620 |
| Sherman town, ME | 417 | 8,846 |
| Smyrna town, ME | 164 | 3,996 |
| Stacyville town, ME | 147 | 2,618 |
| Weston town, ME | 110 | 1,980 |
| | | |
| <i>Lincoln, ME LMA</i> | | |
| Carroll plantation, ME | 63 | 1,212 |
| Chester town, ME | 253 | 5,777 |
| Drew plantation, ME | 17 | 177 |
| Lakeville town, ME | 74 | 502 |
| Lee town, ME | 571 | 7,743 |
| Lincoln town, ME | 1,919 | 41,381 |
| Lowell town, ME | 117 | 3,521 |
| Prentiss unorganized, ME | 103 | 1,524 |
| Springfield town, ME | 260 | 3,910 |
| Twombly Ridge unorganized, ME | - | - |
| Webster plantation, ME | 31 | 300 |
| Whitney unorganized, ME | - | - |
| Winn town, ME | 199 | 3,603 |
| | | |
| <i>Millinocket, ME LMA</i> | | |

| | | |
|---|---------------|----------------|
| East Millinocket town, ME | 783 | 13,884 |
| Glenwood plantation, ME | - | - |
| Mattawamkeag town, ME | 354 | 5,315 |
| Maxfield town, ME | 30 | 703 |
| Medway town, ME | 572 | 9,970 |
| Millinocket town, ME | 1,785 | 36,542 |
| North Penobscot unorganized, ME | 173 | 4,231 |
| Northeast Piscataquis unorganized, ME | 210 | 2,923 |
| Seboeis plantation, ME | 0 | 144 |
| South Aroostook unorganized, ME | 210 | 2,881 |
| Woodville town, ME | 127 | 2,080 |
| | | |
| Combined Area Total | 19,759 | 442,605 |
| Combined Area Unemployment Rate | 4.5% | |
| 20% Above National Average Threshold | 4.4% | |

The State seeks a waiver for a regional group of 6 contiguous towns based on the region's aggregate average unemployment rate for the 24-month period of May 2022 through April 2024. The region's aggregate average unemployment rate for this period was 4.5 percent.

| Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data May 2022 through April 2024 | | |
|--|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| Regional Grouping of Towns in Bangor Metropolitan NECTA | Unemployed Total | Labor Force Total |
| Burlington town, ME | 187 | 3,451 |
| East Central Penobscot unorganized, ME | 111 | 2,742 |
| Edinburg town, ME | 106 | 1,832 |
| Lagrange town, ME | 241 | 7,016 |
| Passadumkeag town, ME | 168 | 3,824 |
| Southeast Piscataquis unorganized, ME | 116 | 1,842 |
| Combined Area Total | 929 | 20,707 |
| Combined Area Unemployment Rate | 4.5% | |
| 20% Above National Average Threshold | 4.4% | |

The State seeks a waiver for a regional group of 15 contiguous towns based on the region's aggregate average unemployment rate for the 24-month period of May 2022 through April 2024. The region's aggregate average unemployment rate for this period was 4.5 percent.

| Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data May 2022 through April 2024 | | |
|--|---------------------|----------------------|
| Regional Grouping of Towns in Doxer-Foxcroft LMA | Unemployed Total | Labor Force Total |
| Abbot town, ME | 387 | 8,395 |
| Blanchard unorganized, ME | 42 | 1,003 |
| Bowerbank town, ME | 58 | 1,091 |
| Brownville town, ME | 520 | 10,830 |
| Cambridge town, ME | 154 | 4,076 |
| Dexter town, ME | 1,472 | 38,413 |
| Lake View plantation, ME | 54 | 899 |
| Milo town, ME | 1,147 | 21,318 |
| Monson town, ME | 228 | 6,167 |
| Northwest Piscataquis unorganized, ME | 43 | 1,731 |
| Parkman town, ME | 367 | 8,423 |
| Ripley town, ME | 163 | 4,319 |
| Sangerville town, ME | 646 | 10,910 |
| Sebec town, ME | 209 | 5,798 |
| Willimantic town, ME | 65 | 1,287 |
| Combined Area Total | 5,555 | 124,660 |
| Combined Area Unemployment Rate | 4.5% | |
| 20% Above National Average Threshold | 4.4% | |

The State also seeks a waiver for 3 individual towns based on their average unemployment rate for the 24-month period of February 2022 through January 2024. The national average unemployment rate for this 24-month period was 3.6 percent; 20 percent above this was 4.3 percent. The towns have average unemployment rates at least 20 percent above the national average for the same time period.

| Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data February 2022 through January 2024 | | | |
|---|---------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Individual Towns | Unemployed Total | Labor Force Total | Unemployment Rate |
| Cutler town, ME | 194 | 4,401 | 4.4% |
| Jackson town, ME | 286 | 5,736 | 5.0% |
| Tremont town, ME | 899 | 19,519 | 4.6% |
| 20% Above National Average Threshold | 4.3% | | |

The State seeks a waiver for a regional group of 9 contiguous towns based on the region's aggregate average unemployment rate for the 24-month period of February

2022 through January 2024. The region's aggregate average unemployment rate for this period was 4.4 percent.

| Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data February 2022 through January 2024 | | |
|---|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| Regional Grouping of Towns in Ellsworth Labor Market Area | Unemployed Total | Labor Force Total |
| Central Hancock unorganized, ME | 31 | 1,306 |
| East Hancock unorganized, ME | 52 | 1,259 |
| Franklin town, ME | 712 | 17,307 |
| Gouldsboro town, ME | 697 | 16,616 |
| Great Pond town, ME | 7 | 754 |
| Northwest Hancock unorganized, ME | 0 | 48 |
| Steuben town, ME | 664 | 12,482 |
| Sullivan town, ME | 714 | 15,159 |
| Winter Harbor town, ME | 224 | 5,602 |
| Combined Area Total | 3,101 | 70,533 |
| Combined Area Unemployment Rate | 4.4% | |
| 20% Above National Average Threshold | 4.3% | |

The State seeks a waiver for a regional group of 12 contiguous towns based on the region's aggregate average unemployment rate for the 24-month period of February 2022 through January 2024. The region's aggregate average unemployment rate for this period was 4.4 percent.

| Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data February 2022 through January 2024 | | |
|---|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| Regional Grouping of Towns in Farmington Labor Market Area | Unemployed Total | Labor Force Total |
| Avon town, ME | 217 | 5,429 |
| Coplin plantation, ME | 55 | 1,367 |
| Dallas plantation, ME | 119 | 2,348 |
| East Central Franklin unorganized, ME | 351 | 9,461 |
| Eustis town, ME | 298 | 5,666 |
| Kingfield town, ME | 407 | 10,814 |
| New Portland town, ME | 334 | 6,685 |
| North Franklin unorganized, ME | 21 | 868 |
| Phillips town, ME | 468 | 9,379 |
| Rangeley plantation, ME | 59 | 1,550 |
| South Franklin unorganized, ME | 9 | 320 |
| Weld town, ME | 192 | 3,691 |
| Combined Area Total | 2,530 | 57,578 |

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| Combined Area Unemployment Rate | 4.4% |
| 20% Above National Average Threshold | 4.3% |

The State seeks a waiver for a regional group of 10 contiguous towns based on the region's aggregate average unemployment rate for the 24-month period of February 2022 through January 2024. The region's aggregate average unemployment rate for this period was 4.4 percent.

| Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data February 2022 through January 2024 | | |
|---|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| Regional Grouping of Towns in Machias Labor Market Area | Unemployed Total | Labor Force Total |
| Addison town, ME | 573 | 15,726 |
| Cherryfield town, ME | 494 | 13,285 |
| Columbia Falls town, ME | 224 | 5,522 |
| Columbia town, ME | 228 | 4,931 |
| Deblois town, ME | 35 | 607 |
| Harrington town, ME | 524 | 10,378 |
| Jonesboro town, ME | 291 | 6,859 |
| Machias town, ME | 747 | 19,832 |
| Milbridge town, ME | 776 | 11,526 |
| Whitneyville town, ME | 87 | 2,354 |
| Combined Area Total | 3,979 | 91,020 |
| Combined Area Unemployment Rate | 4.4% | |
| 20% Above National Average Threshold | 4.3% | |

The State seeks a waiver for a regional group of 35 contiguous towns based on the region's aggregate average unemployment rate for the 24-month period of February 2022 through January 2024. The region's aggregate average unemployment rate for this period was 4.4 percent.

| Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data February 2022 through January 2024 | | |
|---|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| Regional Grouping of Towns in Presque Labor Market Area | Unemployed Total | Labor Force Total |
| Allagash town, ME | 275 | 1,622 |
| Ashland town, ME | 709 | 11,913 |
| Blaine town, ME | 253 | 7,886 |
| Bridgewater town, ME | 146 | 4,691 |
| Caribou city, ME | 2,831 | 83,274 |

| | | |
|---|---------------|----------------|
| Castle Hill town, ME | 216 | 3,369 |
| Caswell town, ME | 109 | 1,919 |
| Central Aroostook unorganized, ME | 84 | 2,138 |
| Connor unorganized, ME | 181 | 3,801 |
| Cyr plantation, ME | 38 | 613 |
| Eagle Lake town, ME | 338 | 6,757 |
| Easton town, ME | 428 | 12,360 |
| Fort Fairfield town, ME | 1,283 | 30,707 |
| Fort Kent town, ME | 1,936 | 41,308 |
| Garfield plantation, ME | 21 | 792 |
| Hamlin town, ME | 57 | 1,558 |
| Limestone town, ME | 892 | 21,516 |
| Mars Hill town, ME | 471 | 14,898 |
| Masardis town, ME | 107 | 2,045 |
| Nashville plantation, ME | 28 | 425 |
| New Canada town, ME | 173 | 3,879 |
| New Sweden town, ME | 364 | 6,695 |
| Perham town, ME | 130 | 3,683 |
| Portage Lake town, ME | 265 | 3,508 |
| Square Lake unorganized, ME | 234 | 4,909 |
| St. Francis town, ME | 358 | 3,553 |
| St. John plantation, ME | 218 | 2,156 |
| Stockholm town, ME | 106 | 2,556 |
| Van Buren town, ME | 843 | 15,379 |
| Wade town, ME | 141 | 1,837 |
| Wallagrass town, ME | 337 | 5,965 |
| Washburn town, ME | 633 | 17,684 |
| Westfield town, ME | 139 | 4,198 |
| Westmanland town, ME | 31 | 629 |
| Winterville plantation, ME | 76 | 1,532 |
| Combined Area Total | 14,451 | 331,755 |
| Combined Area Unemployment Rate | 4.4% | |
| 20% Above National Average Threshold | 4.3% | |

The State seeks a waiver for a regional group of 5 contiguous towns based on the region's aggregate average unemployment rate for the 24-month period of February 2022 through January 2024. The region's aggregate average unemployment rate for this period was 4.4 percent.

| Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data February 2022 through January 2024 | | |
|---|---------------------|----------------------|
| Regional Grouping of Towns in Rumford Labor Market Area | Unemployed Total | Labor Force Total |

| | | |
|---|--------------|---------------|
| Carthage town, ME | 228 | 4,135 |
| Mexico town, ME | 1,086 | 23,619 |
| Milton unorganized, ME | 52 | 1,339 |
| Peru town, ME | 621 | 16,173 |
| Roxbury town, ME | 159 | 3,975 |
| Combined Area Total | 2,146 | 49,241 |
| Combined Area Unemployment Rate | 4.4% | |
| 20% Above National Average Threshold | 4.3% | |

The State seeks a waiver for a regional group of 20 contiguous towns based on the region's aggregate average unemployment rate for the 24-month period of February 2022 through January 2024. The region's aggregate average unemployment rate for this period was 4.4 percent.

| Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data February 2022 through January 2024 | | |
|---|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| Regional Grouping of Towns in Skowhegan Labor Market Area | Unemployed Total | Labor Force Total |
| Anson town, ME | 1,298 | 21,307 |
| Athens town, ME | 382 | 10,376 |
| Bingham town, ME | 346 | 8,231 |
| Brighton plantation, ME | 32 | 603 |
| Caratunk town, ME | 25 | 1,185 |
| Dennistown plantation, ME | 0 | 449 |
| Embden town, ME | 432 | 9,598 |
| Highland plantation, ME | 19 | 350 |
| Jackman town, ME | 317 | 10,214 |
| Mercer town, ME | 218 | 7,085 |
| Moose River town, ME | 43 | 2,554 |
| Moscow town, ME | 281 | 4,592 |
| Northeast Somerset unorganized, ME | 155 | 4,395 |
| Northwest Somerset unorganized, ME | 7 | 7 |
| Pleasant Ridge plantation, ME | 27 | 880 |
| Smithfield town, ME | 473 | 12,075 |
| Solon town, ME | 508 | 11,117 |
| Starks town, ME | 300 | 7,478 |
| The Forks plantation, ME | 22 | 118 |
| West Forks plantation, ME | 75 | 998 |
| Combined Area Total | 4,960 | 113,612 |
| Combined Area Unemployment Rate | 4.4% | |
| 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 there are not a sufficient number of jobs to provide employment for able-bodied adults without dependents.

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

The caseload for Maine, as of June 2024, is 185,616 individuals. There are 13,503 ABAWDS represented in that caseload, and of those ABAWDS, 3154, or 23% of the ABAWD population would qualify for this geographic waiver. 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 October 1, 2024, through September 30, 2025.

13. Proposed quality control review procedures:

There are no special quality control procedures needed in conjunction with this waiver.

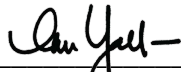
14. State agency submitting waiver request and State contact person:

State of Maine DHHS- Office for Family Independence

Contact: Evan Denno, SNAP Program Manager

Evan.Denno@Maine.gov

15. (207) 466-3201 Signature and title of requesting official:



Title: Director of OFI

Email for transmission of response: Ian.Yaffe@Maine.gov

16. Date of request:

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

Evan Denno, SNAP Program Manager

Evan.Denno@Maine.gov

(207) 466-3201

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