

## STATE WAIVER REQUEST

1. **Waiver Serial Number (if applicable):** 2150037
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:** Kentucky
6. **Region:** Southeast
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 Kentucky is requesting to exempt able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWDs) residing in 117 counties from SNAP time limits under 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 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 Kentucky seeks a waiver for a region of 117 contiguous counties based on its average unemployment rate that is 20 percent above the national average for the 24-month period of July 2022 to June 2024. The national average unemployment rate for this 24-month period was 3.7 percent; 20 percent above this was 4.4 percent. The region's unemployment rate was 4.4 percent for the same period.

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data</b> <b>July 2022 to June 2024</b></p>
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<b>County</b>	<b>Total Unemployed</b>	<b>Total Labor Force</b>
Adair County	8,970	174,115
Allen County	8,949	215,861
Daviess County	47,452	1,073,034
Webster County	5,441	124,839
Anderson County	9,918	288,728
Ballard County	4,111	83,232
Barren County	19,229	426,213
Bath County	6,469	110,965
Bell County	11,278	198,369
Boone County	62,246	1,715,329
Bourbon County	8,382	228,195
Boyd County	23,298	409,914
Boyle County	13,733	303,058
Bracken County	4,323	90,058
Breathitt County	6,007	75,907
Breckinridge County	9,419	189,750
Bullitt County	40,717	1,016,735
Butler County	5,611	121,258
Caldwell County	5,546	138,935
Calloway County	18,381	412,070
Campbell County	44,819	1,204,702
Carlisle County	2,132	53,100
Carroll County	4,722	132,407
Carter County	17,642	230,353
Casey County	6,579	157,842
Christian County	30,456	591,694
Clark County	16,132	414,647
Clay County	7,983	121,644
Clinton County	4,464	83,434
Crittenden County	3,901	89,990
Cumberland County	2,915	83,462
Edmonson County	5,932	114,788
Elliott County	3,741	45,246
Estill County	6,328	123,571
Fleming County	7,105	142,690
Floyd County	16,406	262,149
Franklin County	22,326	605,750
Fulton County	2,525	50,773
Gallatin County	3,900	95,128
Garrard County	7,725	190,510

Grant County	11,613	277,837
Graves County	16,006	370,478
Grayson County	11,751	247,651
Green County	4,727	120,094
Greenup County	20,059	308,851
Hancock County	4,252	89,424
Hardin County	48,766	1,137,077
Harlan County	10,329	152,274
Harrison County	8,125	211,551
Hart County	8,188	182,164
Henderson County	20,056	486,099
Henry County	7,160	192,299
Hickman County	1,818	39,836
Hopkins County	20,617	439,583
Jackson County	5,912	99,346
Jefferson County	370,686	9,350,070
Jessamine County	23,101	639,350
Johnson County	10,825	160,530
Kenton County	78,655	2,085,848
Knott County	7,073	102,156
Knox County	14,248	235,775
Larue County	6,347	139,029
Laurel County	27,691	594,481
Lawrence County	7,985	135,078
Lee County	3,031	51,741
Leslie County	4,294	60,093
Letcher County	9,390	142,777
Lewis County	8,558	107,239
Lincoln County	11,571	222,017
Livingston County	4,546	87,445
Logan County	12,252	291,756
Lyon County	3,505	76,206
Madison County	44,569	1,125,545
Magoffin County	7,580	75,604
Marion County	7,926	227,349
Marshall County	14,839	357,430
Martin County	4,512	52,746
Mason County	8,421	155,942
McCracken County	30,155	716,227
McCreary County	6,723	111,986
McLean County	4,500	92,803

Meade County	13,066	280,694
Menifee County	3,589	55,847
Mercer County	9,985	244,435
Metcalfe County	4,504	93,138
Monroe County	4,538	107,702
Montgomery County	13,732	279,215
Morgan County	5,650	104,630
Muhlenberg County	15,008	237,869
Nelson County	21,022	570,205
Nicholas County	3,432	79,450
Ohio County	12,432	217,146
Owen County	4,763	124,666
Owsley County	1,823	26,386
Pendleton County	6,804	164,969
Perry County	11,046	191,194
Pike County	26,611	455,334
Powell County	5,597	123,857
Pulaski County	30,010	602,859
Robertson County	1,025	19,090
Rockcastle County	7,504	155,630
Rowan County	13,024	244,952
Russell County	8,302	152,693
Shelby County	21,647	611,929
Simpson County	8,373	215,576
Spencer County	9,200	249,995
Taylor County	11,379	287,747
Todd County	5,288	137,715
Trigg County	6,942	144,121
Trimble County	3,639	90,235
Union County	6,944	140,942
Warren County	63,812	1,592,361
Washington County	5,091	149,583
Wayne County	9,349	165,207
Whitley County	16,233	329,350
Wolfe County	3,275	51,355
Woodford County	11,474	357,315
<b>Total Region</b>	<b>1,875,688</b>	<b>42,997,624</b>
<b>Combined Unemployment Rate</b>	<b>4.4%</b>	
<b>20% Above National Average Threshold</b>	<b>4.4%</b>	

**10. Anticipated impact on households and State agency operations:**

This waiver will provide consistency for households and State agency operations.

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

The caseload for these areas, as of **June 2024**, represent **98%** 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 December 1, 2024 through November 30, 2025.

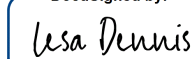
**13. Proposed quality control review procedures:**

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

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

Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services (CHFS)  
Department for Community Based Services (DCBS)  
275 East Main St  
Frankfort, KY 40621  
Clarizza Singayao, Public Assistance Program Specialist

**15. Signature and title of requesting official:**

A blue ink handwritten signature of Lesa Dennis is written over a blue line. Above the signature, the text "DocuSigned by:" is visible. Below the signature, a small alphanumeric string "2597068C24264CA..." is printed.

Title: DCBS Commissioner

Email for transmission of response: Lesa.Dennis@ky.gov

**16. Date of request: 11/22/2024**

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

Clarizza Singayao, Public Assistance Program Specialist  
[Clarizza.Singayao@ky.gov](mailto:Clarizza.Singayao@ky.gov)  
502-564-4679

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