

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>.

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

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):