

June 3, 2025

Amibilech Wenthold, Interim Regional
Director USDA – Food & Nutrition
Service Mountain Plains Region
1244 Speer Boulevard, Suite 903
Denver, CO 80204-3585

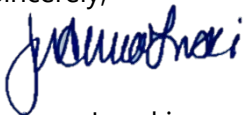
Dear Mr. Wenthold:

Attached please find North Dakota's request for an extension of waiver #970125.
The waiver extension request is to waive ABAWD requirements for the period of July 1, 2025,
through June 30, 2026, in the following counties:

- Bottineau
- Rolette
- Towner

Please do not hesitate to reach out to me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



JoAnna Lonski
SNAP Program Administrator
NDDHHS/Economic Assistance Section

cc: Chad Imker
Kristina Medina
Demareo Pruitt
Dawn Brossart

STATE WAIVER REQUEST

1. **Waiver Serial Number (if applicable):** 970125
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:** North Dakota
6. **Region:** MPRO
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 North Dakota is requesting to exempt able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWDs) in 3 counties and 1 reservation 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 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 North Dakota seeks a waiver for a region of 3 contiguous counties based on its average unemployment rate that is 20 percent above the national average for the 24-month period of February 2022 to 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 region's unemployment rate was 4.3 percent for the same time period.

Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data February 2022 to January 2024		
County	Total Unemployed	Total Labor Force
Bottineau County	1,876	71,995
Rolette County	6,717	113,593
Towner County	577	27,303
Region Total	9,170	212,891
Combined Unemployment Rate	4.3%	
20% Above National Average Threshold	4.3%	

The State requests to waive the following reservations based on having average unemployment rates exceeding the national average for a recent 24-month period. The reservation unemployment rates were calculated by applying 2023 American Community Survey¹ share ratios to county-level BLS data from February 2022 to January 2024. The following table summarizes the calculations:

American Community Survey and Bureau of Labor Statistics Data February 2022 to January 2024			
Reservations	Unemployed	Labor Force	Unemployment Rate
Burke County (part); North Dakota (part); Turtle Mountain Reservation and Off-Reservation Trust Land, ND--MT--SD	-	-	-
Cavalier County (part); North Dakota (part); Turtle Mountain Reservation and Off-Reservation Trust Land, ND--MT--SD	-	-	-
Divide County (part); North Dakota (part); Turtle Mountain Reservation and Off-Reservation Trust Land, ND--MT--SD	-	-	-
McHenry County (part); North Dakota (part); Turtle Mountain Reservation and Off-Reservation Trust Land, ND--MT--SD	-	-	-
McLean County (part); North Dakota (part); Turtle Mountain Reservation and Off-Reservation Trust Land, ND--MT--SD	-	-	-
Mountrail County (part); North Dakota (part); Turtle Mountain Reservation and Off-Reservation Trust Land, ND--MT--SD	-	-	-

¹ These calculations are based on data from the 2019-2023 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates.

Rolette County (part); North Dakota (part); Turtle Mountain Reservation and Off- Reservation Trust Land, ND--MT--SD	4,166	64,657	6.4%
Williams County (part); North Dakota (part); Turtle Mountain Reservation and Off- Reservation Trust Land, ND--MT--SD	-	-	-
Total Turtle Mountain Reservation	4,166	64,657	6.4%

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, for **May 2024 through April 2025**, represents **7.3%** 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:

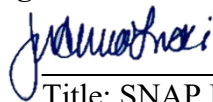
The State is requesting a one-year waiver from July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026.

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: ND
Economic Assistance – SNAP, JoAnna Lonski**

15. Signature and title of requesting official:



Title: SNAP E&T Program Administrator

Email for transmission of response: joalonski@nd.gov

16. Date of request: June 3, 2025

**17. State agency staff contact (name/email/telephone): JoAnna
Lonski/joalonski@nd.gov/701.328.1832**

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