

ABLE-BODIED ADULTS WITHOUT DEPENDENTS (ABAWD) WAIVER REQUEST

1. **Type of request:** Initial
2. **Statutory citation:** Section 6(o) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008, as amended
3. **Regulatory citation:** 7 CFR 273.24
4. **State:** New Hampshire
5. **Region:** NERO
6. **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.
7. **Description of alternative procedures:** The State of New Hampshire is requesting to exempt able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWDs) in 2 towns from SNAP time limits at 7 CFR 273.24.
8. **Justification for request:** Under SNAP regulations at 7 CFR 273.24(f)(2), area 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 seeks a waiver for the individual town of Stratford based on its individual unemployment rate that is 20 percent above the national average for the 24-month period of February 2022 through January 2024.

February 2022 through January 2024			
Town	Unemployed Total	Labor Force Total	Unemployment Rate
Stratford town, NH	296	6057	4.9%
20% Above National Average Threshold	4.3%		

The State seeks a waiver for the individual town of Hale's Location based on its individual unemployment rate that is 20 percent above the national average for the 24-month period of February 2022 through January 2024.

February 2022 through January 2024			
Town	Unemployed Total	Labor Force Total	Unemployment Rate
Hale's Location, NH	44	1006	4.4%
20% Above National Average Threshold	4.3%		

- 9. 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.
- 10. Caseload information, including percent, characteristics, and quality control error rate for affection portion (if applicable):** As of June 30, 2024, the total anticipated SNAP caseload for the waived area was 65. The total number of ABAWDs within the caseload was 6. This represents .092% of the SNAP caseload for the waived area.
- 11. 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.
- 12. Proposed quality control review procedures:** There are no special quality control procedures needed in conjunction with this waiver.
- 13. Name, title, email, and signature of requesting official:**
Name: Debra Sorli
Title: Administrator IV
Email: Debra.E.Sorli@dhhs.nh.gov
Signature:
- 14. Date of request:** 7/16/2024
- 15. State agency staff contact:**
Name: Jill Brown
Title: SNAP Administrator
Email: Jill.M.Brown@dhhs.nh.gov
- 16. Regional Office contact person (to be completed by FNS regional office):**