



Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance

KATHY HOCHUL
Governor

BARBARA C. GUINN
Commissioner

RAJNI CHAWLA
Executive Deputy Commissioner

September 12, 2024

Matthew Henschel, SNAP Director
United States Department of Agriculture
Food and Nutrition Service
Northeast Regional Office
10 Causeway Street, Room 501
Boston, Massachusetts 02222

Dear Director Henschel:

The New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA) is seeking approval of the attached State Waiver Request to exempt Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWD) residing in 61 counties in New York from federal ABAWD requirements for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) established by 7 CFR 273.24. The waiver request is for the period March 1, 2025, through February 28, 2026.

New York State is defining the areas to be waived as provided in 7 CFR 273.24 (f)(6) and is applying for waivers using a 24-month unemployment rate average that exceeds the national average for the same 24-month time period by 20 percent. As Saratoga County does not qualify for a waiver from the ABAWD time limit for the period mentioned above, OTDA intends to use discretionary exemptions available to New York State for Federal Fiscal Year (FFY2025) to exempt individuals residing in the county from the ABAWD time limit. Based on a policy memo released by the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) on May 1, 2024, the total number of discretionary exemptions available to the State is 181,415. OTDA intends to monitor the number of discretionary exemptions used on a monthly basis and to continue applying exemptions to individuals residing in Saratoga County for as long as such are available.

This waiver request has the support of New York State's Governor's Office.

Thank you for your consideration as we look forward to hearing from you regarding our request. Please contact Stephanie Boshart at (518) 486-3151 if you would like to discuss or need any additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Valerie Figueroa', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Valerie Figueroa
Deputy Commissioner
Employment and Income Support Programs

cc: Lisbeth Silberman, USDA-FNS
Kevin Pasquaretta, USDA-FNS
Leidy Mateus, USDA-FNS
Barbara Guinn
Renee Nowicki
Britany Orlebeke
Stephanie Boshart
Bill Koncelik
Teodora McAdoo