

STATE WAIVER REQUEST

1. **Waiver Serial Number (if applicable):** 2150022
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:** Oregon
6. **Region:** WRO
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 Oregon is requesting to exempt able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWDs) in 30 counties and 7 reservations 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 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 Oregon seeks a waiver for a region of 30 counties based on the region's aggregate average unemployment rate for the 24-month period of February 2022 through January 2024. The national average unemployment rate for this period was 3.6 percent; 20 percent above this was 4.3 percent. The region's aggregate average unemployment rate for this period was 4.3 percent.

Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data February 2022 through January 2024		
Counties	Unemployed Total	Labor Force Total
Baker County, OR	7,678	173,088
Clatsop County, OR	18,164	470,934
Columbia County, OR	26,863	599,214
Coos County, OR	30,267	637,242
Crook County, OR	14,486	268,416
Curry County, OR	10,674	218,060
Deschutes County, OR	94,828	2,491,724
Douglas County, OR	54,847	1,132,705
Gilliam County, OR	900	22,873
Grant County, OR	4,102	76,722
Harney County, OR	3,900	88,470
Jackson County, OR	111,765	2,536,087
Jefferson County, OR	12,040	246,070
Josephine County, OR	44,866	864,175
Klamath County, OR	39,148	720,766
Lake County, OR	4,434	87,083
Lane County, OR	180,708	4,375,380
Lincoln County, OR	23,017	506,001
Linn County, OR	61,678	1,459,519
Malheur County, OR	11,896	306,895
Marion County, OR	158,197	4,070,004
Morrow County, OR	5,259	145,208
Polk County, OR	39,643	1,021,787
Sherman County, OR	819	23,121
Tillamook County, OR	11,584	291,551
Umatilla County, OR	38,601	919,745
Union County, OR	12,230	289,745
Wallowa County, OR	4,115	86,198
Wasco County, OR	12,904	318,721
Wheeler County, OR	541	18,521
Combined Area Total	1,040,154	24,466,025
Combined Area Unemployment Rate	4.3%	
20% Above National Average Threshold	4.3%	

The State requests to waive the following 6 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 2018-2022 American Community Survey¹ share ratios to county-level Bureau of Labor Statistics data from February 2022 through January 2024. The following table summarizes the calculations:

American Community Survey and Bureau of Labor Statistics Data February 2022 through January 2024			
Reservation	Unemployed	Labor Force	Unemployment Rate
Wasco County (part); Oregon (part); Celilo Village, OR	28	337	8.4%
Total Celilo Village Reservation	28	337	8.4%
Coos County (part); Oregon (part); Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Reservation and Off-Reservation Trust Land, OR	38	435	8.7%
Curry County (part); Oregon (part); Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Reservation and Off-Reservation Trust Land, OR	0	0	-
Lane County (part); Oregon (part); Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Reservation and Off-Reservation Trust Land, OR	0	298	0.0%
Total Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Reservation	38	733	5.2%
Douglas County (part); Oregon (part); Cow Creek Reservation and Off-Reservation Trust Land, OR	174	1,805	9.6%
Total Cow Creek Reservation	174	1,805	9.6%
Polk County (part); Oregon (part); Grand Ronde Community and Off-Reservation Trust Land, OR	382	4,046	9.4%
Yamhill County (part); Oregon (part); Grand Ronde Community and Off-Reservation Trust Land, OR	44	537	8.2%
Total Grand Ronde Reservation	426	4,583	9.3%

¹ These calculations are based on data from the 2018-2022 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates.

Lincoln County (part); Oregon (part); Siletz Reservation and Off-Reservation Trust Land, OR	1023	4,914	20.8%
Marion County (part); Oregon (part); Siletz Reservation and Off-Reservation Trust Land, OR	0	0	-
Total Siletz Reservation	1,023	4,914	20.8%
Umatilla County (part); Oregon (part); Umatilla Reservation and Off- Reservation Trust Land, OR--WA	1684	33,503	5.0%
Union County (part); Oregon (part); Umatilla Reservation and Off- Reservation Trust Land, OR--WA	0	0	-
Total Umatilla Reservation	1,684	33,503	5.0%
Clackamas County (part); Oregon (part); Warm Springs Reservation and Off-Reservation Trust Land, OR	0	0	-
Gilliam County (part); Oregon (part); Warm Springs Reservation and Off- Reservation Trust Land, OR	0	0	-
Hood River County (part); Oregon (part); Warm Springs Reservation and Off-Reservation Trust Land, OR	0	0	-
Jefferson County (part); Oregon (part); Warm Springs Reservation and Off- Reservation Trust Land, OR	2405	24,329	9.9%
Marion County (part); Oregon (part); Warm Springs Reservation and Off- Reservation Trust Land, OR	0	0	-
Sherman County (part); Oregon (part); Warm Springs Reservation and Off- Reservation Trust Land, OR	0	0	-
Wasco County (part); Oregon (part); Warm Springs Reservation and Off- Reservation Trust Land, OR	341	6,112	5.6%
Total Warm Springs Reservation	2,746	30,440	9.0%

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, as of **09/01/2024** represent **60%** 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 January 1, 2025 through December 31, 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:

Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS) SNAP Program

15. Signature and title of requesting official:



Name, Title: Meorah Solar, SNAP program manager

Email: meorah.a.solar@odhs.oregon.gov

16. Date of request: 10/07/2024

17. State agency staff contact (name/email/telephone): Antonio Heras-De La Luz
(SNAP Analyst/Antonio.heras-delaluz@odhs.oregon.gov/ 503-586-6324)

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