

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:** Virginia
5. **Region:** Mid-Atlantic
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:** Virginia requests to waive the work requirement and time-limited benefits for residents of 10 areas where the unemployment rate for a 24-month period exceeds the national average by 20 percent. Unemployment and labor force rates for the period February 2022 through January 2024 were to determine the exempted areas.
Supporting unemployment data and labor force data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) is provided. A map is also provided to identify the specified localities.

Locality	Average unemployment rate: February 2022 -January 2024
Danville City	4.6
Hopewell City	4.4
Martinsville City	4.6
Regional Grouping	Average unemployment rate: February 2022 -January 2024
Brunswick County	4.5
Dinwiddie County	3.2
Emporia City	4.5
Greensville County	3.7
Petersburg City	5.4
Total for Region	4.3
Regional Grouping	Average unemployment rate:

	February 2022 -January 2024
Buchanan County	4.5
Dickenson County	4.3
Total for Region	4.4
National Unemployment Rate	3.6
20% Threshold	4.3

8. **Justification for request:** The counties and independent cities for which this waiver is requested have a 24-month unemployment rate that is equal to or greater than the required threshold. For the regional groupings, the localities are contiguous. The region's aggregate average unemployment rates are equal to or greater than the national threshold.
9. **Anticipated impact on households and State agency operations:** This waiver will provide consistency for households and local departments of social services operations in areas here unemployment rates exceed the national threshold.
10. **Caseload information, including percent, characteristics, and quality control error rate for affection portion (if applicable):** The average caseload for the proposed waived area is 3030 cases which is 6.8 percent of the caseload for the state.

During the sample period beginning October 2024, seven of the ten localities of the proposed areas had cases selected for quality control reviews. 131 case reviews have been completed with 14 cases found in error statewide. Of the error cases, only one case was from one of the localities of the proposed area.

11. **Anticipated implementation date and period for which waiver is needed:** The projected implementation period for this waiver is July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026.
12. **Proposed quality control review procedures:** There are no special procedures for quality control needed in conjunction with this waiver.
13. **Name, title, email, and signature of requesting official:**
Name: Angela C. Morse
Title: Director, Division of Benefit Programs
Email: angela.morse@dss.virginia.gov
Signature:  *See FNS Instructions. Angela C. Morse*
14. **Date of request:** May 15, 2025
15. **State agency staff contact:**
Name: Michele Thomas
Title: 804.726.7375
Email: michele.thomas@dss.virginia.gov
16. **Regional Office contact person (to be completed by FNS regional office):**