

STATE WAIVER REQUEST

1. **Waiver Serial Number (if applicable):**
2. **Type of request:** Modification
3. **Statutory citation:** Section 6(o) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008, as amended by OBBBA
4. **Regulatory citation:** 7 CFR 273.24
5. **State:** California
6. **Region:** Western
7. **Regulatory requirements:**

Under 7 CFR 273.24(b) individuals are not 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 SNAP work requirements. Regulations at 7 CFR 273.24(a) provide that fulfilling the work requirement means: working 20 hours or more per week, averaged monthly; participating in and complying with the requirements of a work program or a workfare program for at least 20 hours per week; or any combination of working and participating in a work program for a total of 20 hours per week.

Under 7 CFR 273.24(f), upon the request of a State agency, the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) may waive the applicability of the time limit described above for any group of individuals in the State if FNS makes a determination that the area in which the individuals reside has an unemployment rate above 10 percent.
8. **Description of alternative procedures:**

The State of California is requesting to exempt able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWDs) in seven counties from SNAP time limits. These counties include: Colusa, Imperial, Tulare, Monterey, Plumas, Alpine, and Merced.
9. **Justification for request:**

Under SNAP regulations at 7 CFR 273.24(f)(1), areas may qualify for a time limit waiver if they have an unemployment rate of over 10 percent.

The State of California seeks a waiver for three individual counties based on their unemployment rates above 10 percent for the 12-month period of July 2024 through June 2025.

Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data July 2024 through June 2025			
County	Total Unemployed	Total Labor Force	Unemployment Rate
Colusa County, CA	17,947	138,190	13.0%
Imperial County, CA	164,975	884,598	18.6%
Tulare County, CA	278,502	2,679,082	10.4%

The State of California seeks a waiver for three individual counties based on their unemployment rates above 10 percent for the 3-month period of January 2025 through March 2025.

Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data January 2025 through March 2025			
County	Total Unemployed	Total Labor Force	Unemployment Rate
Monterey County, CA	67,260	659,250	10.2%
Plumas County, CA	2,258	22,436	10.1%

The State of California seeks a waiver for two individual counties based on their unemployment rates above 10 percent for the 3-month period of May 2025 through July 2025.

Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data May 2025 through July 2025			
County	Total Unemployed	Total Labor Force	Unemployment Rate
Alpine County, CA	121	1,196	10.1%
Merced County, CA	38,321	376,663	10.2%

10. Anticipated impact on households and State agency operations:

These **seven** counties are part of California's current statewide ABAWD waiver; therefore, this waiver request will provide consistency for households and State agency operations in areas where unemployment remains higher than the eligibility threshold.

11. Caseload information, including percent, characteristics, and quality control error rate for affection portion (if applicable):

The caseload for these areas, as of **August 1, 2025**, represents **4.88 percent** 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 **November 1, 2025 through October 31, 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:

Name: Louise Thao

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15. Signature and title of requesting official:



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16. Date of request: November 4, 2025

17. State agency staff contact (name/email/telephone):

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