

STATE WAIVER REQUEST

1. **Waiver Serial Number (if applicable):**
2. **Type of request:** Initial
3. **Statutory citation:** Section 6(o) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008, as amended by HR 1
4. **Regulatory citation:** 7 CFR 273.24
5. **State:** Kentucky
6. **Region:** Southeast
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 Kentucky is requesting to exempt able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWDs) in five counties from SNAP time limits at 7 CFR 273.24.
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 Kentucky seeks a waiver for five counties based on their individual average unemployment rates over 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	Unemployed	Labor Force	Unemployment Rate
Elliott County, KY	635	5,968	10.6%
Lewis County, KY	1,442	13,304	10.8%
Magoffin County, KY	1,329	12,231	10.9%
Martin County, KY	890	8,359	10.6%
Wolfe County, KY	596	5,057	11.8%

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 10 percent.

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

The caseload for these areas, as of **March 2025**, represent **2%** 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 December 1, 2025, through November 30, 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:

Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services (CHFS)
Department for Community Based Services (DCBS)
Division of Family Support (DFS)
Clarizza Singayao, Public Assistance Program Specialist

15. Signature and title of requesting official:

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Title: DCBS Commissioner

Email for transmission of response: Lesa.Dennis@ky.gov

16. Date of request: November 20, 2025

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

Clarizza Singayao, Public Assistance Program Specialist

Clarizza.Singayao@ky.gov

502-564-4679

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