

STATE WAIVER REQUEST

1. **Waiver Serial Number (if applicable):**
2. **Type of request:** Initial
3. **Regulatory citation:** 7 CFR 273.24, 7 CFR 273.24(b)(2)
4. **State:** Illinois
5. **Region:** MWRO
6. **Regulatory requirements:** Section 6(o) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008, as amended, provides that no able-bodied adult without dependents (ABAWDs) 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:** The State of Illinois is requesting to exempt able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWDs) statewide during an outbreak of respiratory disease caused by a novel coronavirus which has been detected in the United States including the State of Illinois. The CDC has indicated there is no vaccine or drug available for this disease.
8. **Justification for request:** ABAWDs may be unable to look for work, continue to work, or continue meeting work requirement participation for fear of outbreaks in their communities. ABAWDs may also face limitations finding employment and community work due to closure of businesses, day cares, universities, nursing homes, senior centers, churches, etc.



ABAWDs could be granted good cause for circumstances beyond the individual's control, such as, but not limited to, illness, or illness of another household member requiring their presence.

Governor JB Pritzker issued a disaster proclamation March 9, 2020 regarding the coronavirus (COVID-19).

The CDC expects more cases to be detected across the country, including more instances of person-to-person spread in more states. Along with the entire

population, ABAWDs may be fearful of outbreaks in their communities which would prevent meeting work requirements.

- 9. Anticipated impact on households and State agency operations:** Thousands of ABAWDs statewide would avoid possible interaction with infected individuals which would assist in decreasing the spread of the virus. In addition, thousands will avoid losing SNAP benefits due to the unavailability of jobs and work centers.
- 10. Caseload information, including percent, characteristics, and quality control error rate for affection portion (if applicable):** In 2/2020, there were 147,423 ABAWDs in Illinois. This represents 16.6% of the statewide SNAP households in 2/2020 of 887,753.
- 11. Anticipated implementation date and time period for which waiver is needed:** The State is requesting a six-month waiver, from 4/1/2020 through 09/30/2020.
- 12. Proposed quality control review procedures:** There are no special quality control procedures needed in conjunction with this waiver.
- 12. State agency submitting waiver request and State contact person:** Department of Human Services, Terri Vaniter at terri.vaniter@illinois.gov
- 13. Signature and title of requesting official:**



Name: Grace Hou
Title: Secretary, Illinois Department of Human Services
Email for transmission of response: Grace.Hou@illinois.gov

- 14. Date of request:** 03/12/2020
- 15. State agency staff contact (name/email/telephone):** Terri Vaniter
terri.vaniter@illinois.gov
- 16. Regional office contact person (to be completed by FNS regional office):**