

## STATE WAIVER REQUEST

1. **Type of request:** Initial
2. **Regulatory citation:** 7 CFR 271.2
3. **State:** Ohio
4. **Region:** MWRO
5. **Regulatory requirements:** The regulations at 7 CFR 271.2 define eligible foods as “any food or food product intended for human consumption except alcoholic beverages, tobacco, and hot foods and hot food products prepared for immediate consumption and any deposit fee in excess of the amount of the State fee reimbursement (if any) required to purchase any food or food product contained in a returnable bottle, can, or other container, regardless of whether the fee is included in the shelf price posted for the food or food product”
6. **Proposed alternative procedures:** The state of Ohio is requesting to waive the regulatory requirements that exclude hot, prepared, non-breaded, non-fried chicken from being an allowable food that can be purchased with SNAP and Summer EBT benefits.
7. **Justification for request:** Ohio seeks this waiver to expand access to high protein, nutritious foods that advance our shared goal of ensuring “food aid should also have a role in confronting obesity, diabetes and other chronic illnesses connected to nutrition in the United States.<sup>1</sup>” Convenience is second to the nutritional value added to the plates of working families by allowing this additional item to be purchased using their SNAP benefits. Additionally, rotisserie chicken is a versatile and cost-effective food that can be used in countless recipes and as a main course; therefore, this waiver would promote cooking and eating satiating, protein-rich meals at home with family. It is also noteworthy that current regulations do allow for SNAP recipients to purchase rotisserie chicken; however, to be eligible for purchase, the chicken must be pulled off the carcass and cooled in containers, typically with an increased price tag compared to those hot and ready to eat. Therefore, this waiver seeks to increase the quality of food available to SNAP recipients by promoting healthier choices often at lower price points than options available to them today.
8. **Caseload information, including percent of caseload and description of population expected to be affected by this waiver:** This would apply to all SNAP and Summer EBT cases.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/politics/watch-rollins-says-u-s-nutrition-supplement-programs-should-be-effective-and-efficient>

**9. Anticipated impact on households and State agency operations:** Allowing the purchase of hot, prepared, non-breaded, non-fried chicken with SNAP would benefit households by encouraging healthier food choices amongst individuals and families participating in SNAP, while saving time, money, and resources at the same time. Hot, prepared, non-breaded, non-fried chicken is frequently more cost-effective than purchasing chicken breast, thereby enabling SNAP recipients to maximize their food budgets and allocate resources toward more nutritious choices.

**10. Anticipated implementation date and time period for which waiver is needed (please indicate if the waiver approval is needed to make system adjustments):**

If FNS approves the request by January 1, 2026, Ohio requests an implementation date of July 1, 2026.

If FNS approves the request by March 1, 2026, Ohio requests an implementation date of October 1, 2026.

Ohio requests a period of 2 years from the implementation date, with the option to request three annual extensions thereafter for a total period not to exceed 5 years.

**11. Proposed quality control review procedures:** This waiver does not affect quality control sampling or procedures.

**12. Name, title, email, and signature of requesting official:**

**Name:** Hannah Knies

**Title:** Bureau Chief of SNAP/TANF Policy

**Email:** [hannah.knies@jfs.ohio.gov](mailto:hannah.knies@jfs.ohio.gov)

**Signature:** *Hannah Knies*

**13. Date of request:** October 28, 2025

**14. State agency staff contact:**

**Name:** Bobbie Lorenz

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