

MICHIGAN


WAIVER STATUS:
Partial

While Michigan has a “partial” work requirement waiver, the vast majority of counties are exempted from commonsense work requirements. The 2018 waiver exempts 69 of the state’s 83 counties and runs from January 1, 2018 to December 31, 2018.



TheFGA.org

174,996

able-bodied adults without dependents on food stamps

Subject to work requirement:
28,932

Percent not working:
75%

Waiver Gimmicks
■ IGNORING AVAILABLE JOBS NEARBY

While some counties fall just above the 5.9% threshold for waivers, oftentimes they are nearby other job centers or areas with plentiful work.

- For example, Delta County had an unemployment rate of 6.5% for the time period referenced in the waiver— still relatively low. But nearby Marquette County has an even lower unemployment rate of just 5.7%.

■ GERRYMANDERING

Michigan combined the unemployment rates of 69 counties to achieve an average unemployment 20 percent higher than the national average for the same time period – in this case, 5.9%. This leads to many counties receiving a waiver, even though those counties would not qualify on their own.

- St. Joseph County enjoyed an *unemployment rate of just 4.1%* for the relevant time period, yet work requirements are completely waived.

Out of the 69 counties, 31 have unemployment levels below the 5.9% threshold – nearly half.

The Real Story
■ STATEWIDE UNEMPLOYMENT

4.4% in Michigan as of December 2017

- *Hovering near historically low levels*

■ OF 69 EXEMPTED COUNTIES IN MI

5 have unemployment rates above the 10% statutory threshold

18 have unemployment rates at or below 5%

- *Current unemployment rates are as low as 3.6% in waived counties.*

In fact, according to Help Wanted Online, there are

135,857

available jobs in Michigan.