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United States Department of Agriculture
Food and Nutrition Service

Western Region

Reply to
Attn of: FS-10-6-AK/Waivers #970186 and 970187

Subject: Alaska ABAWD Waiver Extension Request

To: Art Foley, Director
Program Development Division

MAR 07 2001

Enclosed please find Alaska's request to extend the above ABAWD waivers for areas exempted last year due to high unemployment (#970186) or as labor surplus areas (LSA) (#970187). The State has supplied current supporting documentation for their request.

We have reviewed the State's request and justification and recommend approving the waivers as requested for an additional one-year period through March 31, 2002. There is a minor change in the state-certified waiver (for areas of unemployment rates over 10 percent): the State will be exempting qualifying areas on a year-round basis, rather than a seasonal basis.

If you have any questions please contact Greg Burts or Krister Engdahl at (415) 705-1320, extension 304 or 311, respectively.

DENNIS STEWART
Regional Director
Food Stamp Program
Western Region

Attachment

cc: Seattle F/O

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

DIVISION OF PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

TONY KNOWLES, GOVERNOR

FOOD STAMP POLICY/CLAIMS UNIT
400 W. WILLOUGHBY AVE., SUITE 302
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99801-1731
PHONE: (907) 465-3360
FAX: (907) 465-3651

February 21, 2001

Dennis Stewart, Regional Director
Food Stamp Program
USDA, Food and Nutrition Service
550 Kearny Street, Room 400
San Francisco, CA 94108-2518

Dear Mr. Stewart:

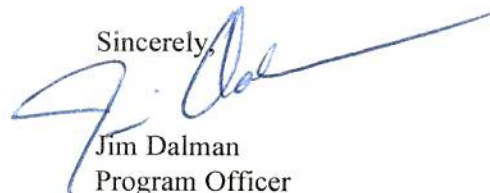
The State of Alaska will exempt certain census areas from the ABAWD work requirement. The state elects to self-certify a waiver of Section 824 of the Personal Responsibility and Work Reconciliation Act based on unemployment rates over 10 percent. The data used is from our official 2000 unemployment rates provided by the Alaska Department of Labor.

Our State-certified waiver exempts qualifying areas on a year-round basis. It also provides continued food assistance in areas where there are not always jobs available for everyone who wants to work. This is a minor change for this year. We have reduced the number of areas in which we had seasonal exemption from the work requirement, electing to expand to a year-round basis. The principle reason is to simplify the already complex ABAWD policy. The seasonal exemptions, which align with periods of high unemployment and greatest need, will continue in some areas under the USDA approved waiver we are requesting. The enclosures provide details of our waiver plans.

For 16 census areas we request USDA approval of waivers due to insufficient number of jobs. The justification for ABAWD work requirement waivers for these areas, all of which have a current U.S. Department of Labor, Labor Surplus Area designation, are enclosed as a separate request.

Our current waivers expire on March 31, 2000, your prompt forwarding of the request on to your National Office for approval is appreciated. Thank you for your assistance. Please contact me if you have any questions relating to our ABAWD waivers.

Sincerely,



Jim Dalman
Program Officer

Enclosures