

United States Department of Agriculture
Food and Nutrition Service

Western Region

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

Subject: Alaska- Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWD) Waiver Extension Request

To: Art Foley, Director
Program Development Division
Food Stamp Program

Attached is Alaska's request to extend waiver #970186 and 970187. These waivers exempt certain areas of the State from the ABAWD work requirements in 7 CFR 273.24(b) based on unemployment rates over 10 percent and/or designations as labor surplus areas (LSA). The State has provided current supporting documentation.

We have reviewed the State's request and justification. We recommend approving the waivers as requested for an additional one-year period through March 31, 2003.

If you have any questions or need further information please call Zita Viernes of my staff at (415) 705-1320, ext. 320.



DENNIS STEWART
Regional Director
Food Stamp Program
Western Region

Attachments

cc: QC, FSP, WRO
AK Desk, POS, FSP, WRO

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
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February 12, 2002

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:

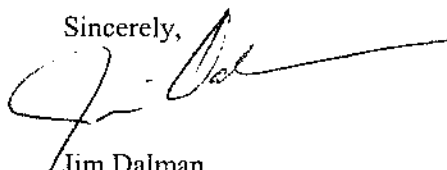
The State of Alaska will exempt certain census areas from the ABAWD work requirement. The state elects to self-certify a waiver of Section 824 of the Personal Responsibility and Work Reconciliation Act based on unemployment rates over 10 percent. The data used is from our official 2001 unemployment rates provided by the Alaska Department of Labor.

Our State-certified waiver exempts qualifying 11 census 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. There is no substantial change from our existing waiver. A couple of different census areas are self-certified this year because the unemployment rate rose above 10 percent. The use of seasonal ABAWD work requirement 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 12 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, 2001, 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