



United States Department of Agriculture
Food and Nutrition Service

Western Region

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due: 4/30/2002

Reply to
Attn of: FS-10-6-WA/Waiver #970153

Subject: Washington – Tribal Reservation ABAWDs Waiver Extension Request – Labor Surplus
Areas and High Unemployment

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

Attached is Washington's request to extend waiver #970153. This waiver exempts the State's Tribal Reservation Surplus Areas and areas of high unemployment from the provisions of Section 6(0) of the Food Stamp Act, as amended by Section 824 of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996.

Most of these Tribal Reservations are located in counties that meet either the Labor Surplus Area or insufficient jobs criteria, and the State has provided current supporting documentation. Four additions to the list of Reservations covered by the waiver include Cowlitz and Samish (labor surplus counties), as well as Muckleshoot and Tulalip (unemployment levels at least 20% above the national average). We have reviewed the State's request to extend this waiver for the period of May 1, 2002 through April 30, 2003, and we recommend approval of the extension.

If you have any questions or need further information, please contact Margot Welk at (415) 705-1320, extension 321.

DENNIS STEWART
Regional Director
Food Stamp Program
Western Region

Attachment

cc: Seattle FO
WA Desk, POS, FSP, WRO
QC, FSP, WRO



STATE OF WASHINGTON

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES

Economic Services Administration
Division of Employment and Assistance Programs
P.O. Box 45470, Olympia, Washington 98504-5470

March 4, 2002

Dennis Stewart, Program Director
Food Stamp Program
Western Region, Food and Nutrition Service
United States Department of Agriculture
550 Kearny Street, Room 400
San Francisco, California 94108-2518

Dear Mr. Stewart:

Washington State is submitting its request for the Tribal Reservation waivers to the Food Stamp Act, Section 6(0). Our prior waiver (#970153) expires on April 30, 2002. At this time, we are submitting last year's data to support the continuation of this waiver through April 30, 2003.

The data used was provided by the Bureau of Indian Affairs, *Report on Indian Service Populations and Labor Force Status*, and the Census Share Ratios for Indian Reservations.

Section 6 (0)(4) of the Food Stamp Act permits waivers for areas with: (1) an unemployment rate of more than 10 percent, or (2) insufficient jobs to provide employment.

Administrative Notice 97-46 specifically states that studies have indicated that the employment-to-population ratio for most Indian reservations is much lower than for the nation as a whole. Based on the low ratios, most reservations would qualify for the aforementioned waivers. In addition, the majority of the tribal reservations in Washington State are located in one or more counties that meet either the Labor Surplus Area or insufficient jobs criteria to apply for the waiver.

Thank you for your consideration of these waivers. If you have any questions, please call Sandy Jsames, Administrator, Work and Education unit at (360) 413-3239.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Roxie Schalliol".

Roxie Schalliol, Acting Director
Division of Employment and Assistance Programs

Enclosure

cc: Liz Begert Dunbar
John Atherton

**Waiver Request, for American Indian Reservations
with High Unemployment or Insufficient Jobs**

1. **Waiver serial number:** 970153
2. **Type of request:** Waive the work requirement for those Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWDs) on American Indian Reservations where unemployment rates are above 10 percent, or where there are insufficient jobs.
3. **Primary regulation citation:** Food Stamp Act of 1977 Work Requirements Section 6 (o) (2) as amended through Public Law 104-193.
4. **Secondary regulation citation:** Food Stamp Act of 1977 Work Requirements Section 6 (o) (4) as amended through Public Law 104-193.
5. **State:** Washington
6. **Region:** Western
7. **Regulatory requirements:** No individual (between 18 and 50) will be eligible to participate in the Food Stamp Program as a member of any household if the individual received Food Stamp benefits for three full months unless the individual works 20 hours a week, participates in a work program for 20 hours or more a week, participates in workfare each month, or is exempt.
8. **Description of proposed alternate procedures:** Exempt all ABAWD Food Stamp recipients in tribal reservation area of the state with unemployment over 10 percent, or where there are insufficient jobs.
9. **Rationale for Request:** Request a waiver from Food Stamp work requirements for areas with high unemployment or insufficient jobs. In these areas many individuals receiving Food Stamps will be unable to find employment despite significant effort. The supply of employment will be particularly short in these areas for individuals with little training or education, as is the case for most ABAWDs who are receiving Food Stamps. The following areas qualify either on the basis of high unemployment, insufficient jobs as evidenced by their listing on federal Labor Surplus Areas (LSA) list, low employment-to-population ratios, or a declining job base that indicates significant economic dislocation.

American Indian Reservations With Insufficient Jobs:

We are requesting a waiver from the Food Stamp work requirements for able-bodied adults without dependents for the following tribes on the basis of insufficient jobs. Data from the Bureau of Indian Affairs (*Indian Service Populations and Labor Force States Report*) for 1998 and census share ratios (see Appendix C) show that these tribal areas are substantially below the state level for unemployment. These tribes are located in LSA counties; have unemployment rates higher than 10 percent based on census share ratios; have unemployment rates greater than 20 percent above the national average; or have employment-to-population ratios below 50 percent.

Please see Appendix B and C for labor force employment data and county exemption status for these reservations. The majority of reservations are located within counties that are exempt based on:

1. Insufficient jobs and are included in the Labor Surplus Areas list (Appendix A); or
2. The unemployment rate in the county for the previous 24 month period (2000 – 2001) exceeds the national unemployment rate by at least 20 percent (Appendix B).

Waivers are requested for the following Tribal Reservations in Washington State:

Chehalis ✓
Colville ✓
Cowlitz ✓
Hoh ✓
Jamestown S'Klallam ✓
Kalispel ✓
Lower Elwha ✓
Lummi ✓
Makah ✓
Muckleshoot ✓
Nisqually ✓
Nooksack ✓
Port Gamble S'Klallam ✓
Puyallup ✓

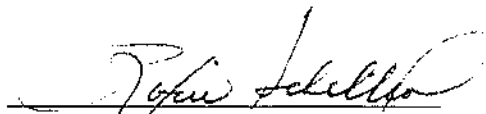
Quileute ✓
Quinault ✓
Samish ✓
Sauk-Suiattle ✓
Shoalwater ✓
Skokomish ✓
Spokane ✓
Squaxin Island ✓
Stillaguamish ✓
Suquamish ✓ NO
Swinomish ✓
Tulalip ✓
Upper Skagit ✓
Yakama

10. Anticipated impact on households and state agency operations:

Households: Exempting clients from work requirements in areas of high unemployment or insufficient jobs will reduce the likelihood of clients being cut from assistance without an ability to be self-sufficient. Focusing our Food Stamp Employment and Training activities on areas of the state where there is a robust economy will allow the state to devote sufficient resources to ensure that the training and job search activities required lead to desired outcomes of client self-sufficiency.

State Agency: Exemption will allow the Department of Social and Health Services to spend its staff and monetary resources in the most efficient manner. Without a waiver for these areas, the Department would be using resources in areas that have insufficient jobs.

- 11. Caseload information, including percent, characteristics, and quality control error rate for affected population:** For caseload and quality control information, see attachments D and E. The data is for federal fiscal year 2000.
- 12. Anticipated implementation date and time for which waiver is needed:** May 1, 2002 through April 30, 2003.
- 13. Proposed quality control review procedures:** No anticipated change in the quality control review procedure.
- 14. Signature and title of requesting official:**



Roxie Schalliol, Acting Director
Division of Employment and Assistance Programs

3/6/02
Date