



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES
DIVISION OF EMPLOYMENT AND ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS
Economic Services Administration
Post Office Box 45440 Olympia WA 98504-5440

July 18, 2007

Dennis Stewart, Food Stamp Program Director
Western Region, Food and Nutrition Service
United States Department of Agriculture
90 Seventh Street, Suite 10-100
San Francisco, California 94103

Dear Mr. Stewart:

Washington State is requesting a waiver of Food Stamp Program requirements for Able Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWD) under 7CFR 273.24 for certain areas of the State. Washington State's current ABAWD waiver, #2030027, is set to expire on September 30, 2007.

Under 7 CFR 273.24(f), states may request a waiver of ABAWD requirements if data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics indicates an average unemployment rate greater than 10 percent for a recent 12-month period. This same section also indicates that a waiver is readily approvable if the unemployment rate for a recent 24-month period exceeds the national average by 20 percent.

Washington State requests to waive individuals residing in 37 counties within the state. The State seeks waivers for contiguous counties that are eligible based on aggregate average unemployment rates of at least 20 percent above the national average during March 2005 and February 2007, when the national average unemployment rate plus 20 percent was 5.7 percent. We are requesting that the waiver be granted through September 30, 2008.

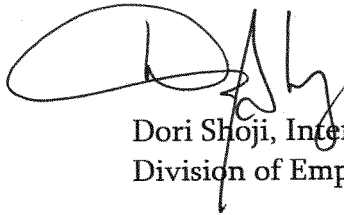
Thank you for your consideration. If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Brent Low, WorkFirst Administrator, at (360) 725-4633 or lowbd@dshs.wa.gov.

Food Stamp Program Requirements for ABAWDS

July 18, 2007

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dori Shoji', is written over the typed name and title.

Dori Shoji, Interim Director
Division of Employment and Assistance Programs

Enclosures

cc: William Bergh
Nick Espinosa
Brent Low
Cindy Mund
Sam Senn

Barbara Bucsko
Mike J. Hart
Sandy Miller
Leo Ribas
Sarah Colleen Sotomish

WAIVER REQUEST

1. **Waiver serial number:**
2030027
2. **Type of request:**
Modification and Extension
3. **Primary regulation citation:**
Section 6 (o) of the Food Stamp Act, as amended by Section 824 of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act (PRWORA) of 1996, P.L. 104-193.
4. **Secondary regulation citation:**
CFR 273.24 (f)(3)(iii)
5. **State:**
Washington
6. **Region:**
WRO
7. **Regulatory Requirements:**

Under 7 CFR 273.24(b) individuals are not eligible to participate in the Food Stamp Program as a member of any household if, during the preceding 36-month period, the individual received food stamp benefits for not less than 3 months (consecutive or otherwise), during which the individual did not work 20 hours or more per week, averaged monthly; participate in and comply with the requirements of a work program for 20 hours or more per week; or participate in and comply with requirements of a program under Section 20 or a comparable program established by the State.

Under 7 CFR 273.24(f), upon the request of a State agency, the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) may waive the applicability of the above provision for any group of individuals in the State if the FNS makes a determination that the area in which the individuals reside has an unemployment rate of over 10 percent, or does not have a sufficient number of jobs to provide employment for the individuals.
8. **Description of the proposed alternative procedures:**

The State of Washington requests to waive individuals residing in thirty-seven counties within the state. The State seeks waivers for contiguous counties that are eligible based on aggregate average unemployment rates of at least 20 percent above the national average during March 2005 through February 2007, when the national average unemployment rate plus 20 percent was 5.7.

Area	Unemployment Rate, MAR 2005 – FEB 2007
Adams County	6.7
Asotin County	5.3
Benton County	5.7
Chelan County	5.4
Clallam County	6.0
Clark County	6.0
Columbia County	8.1
Cowlitz County	6.8
Douglas County	5.2
Ferry County	9.2
Franklin County	7.1
Garfield County	5.4
Grant County	6.9
Grays Harbor County	7.3
Island County	5.4
Jefferson County	5.1
Kitsap County	4.9
Kittitas County	5.4
Klickitat County	7.3
Lewis County	7.2
Lincoln County	5.8
Mason County	6.0
Okanogan County	6.8
Pacific County	6.7
Pend Oreille County	7.6
Pierce County	5.4
San Juan County	4.0
Skagit County	5.4
Skamania County	7.2
Spokane County	5.3
Stevens County	7.4
Thurston County	4.8
Wahkiakum County	6.7
Walla Walla County	5.5
Whatcom County	4.7
Whitman County	4.1
Yakima County	7.2
Total for Sub-region	5.7

Twenty-one counties: Adams County, Benton County, Clallam County, Clark County, Columbia County, Cowlitz County, Ferry County, Franklin County, Grant County, Grays Harbor County, Klickitat County, Lewis County, Lincoln County, Mason County, Okanogan County, Pacific County, Pend Oreille County, Skamania County, Stevens County, Wahkiakum County, and Yakima County qualify based on having average unemployment rates of at least 20 percent above the national average for March 2005 through February 2007. Sixteen counties: Asotin County, Chelan County, Douglas County, Garfield County, Island County, Jefferson County, Kitsap County, Kittitas County, Pierce County, San Juan County, Skagit County, Spokane County, Thurston County, Walla Walla County, Whatcom County, and Whitman County qualify based on the area's aggregate

average unemployment rate, which is at least 20 percent above the national average for March 2005 through February 2007.

9. Justification for request:

As stated in number 8 above, the areas listed above have an average unemployment rate of at least 20 percent above the national average during a recent 24-month time period. All of the raw data supporting our numbers that we have used are from the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) website.

10. Anticipated impact on households and State agency operations:

This waiver will provide consistency for households and State agency operations in areas where unemployment remains higher than the national average.

11. Caseload information, including percent, characteristic, and quality control error rate for affected portion:

The caseload for these areas, as of *DATE*, represent *XX*% of the caseload for the state. There are no quality control procedures

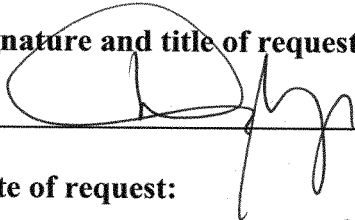
12. Anticipated implementation date and time period for which waiver is needed:

The State is requesting a one-year waiver from October 1, 2007 through September 30, 2008.

13. Proposed quality control review procedures:

There are no special quality control procedures needed in conjunction with this waiver.

14. Signature and title of requesting official:



15. Date of request:

7/17/07
