



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES

July 1, 2008

Dennis Stewart, Regional Director
USDA Food and Nutrition Service
Western Regional Office
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, 2008.

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% 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%.

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 June 2005 and May 2007, when the national average unemployment rate plus 20 percent was 5.6%.

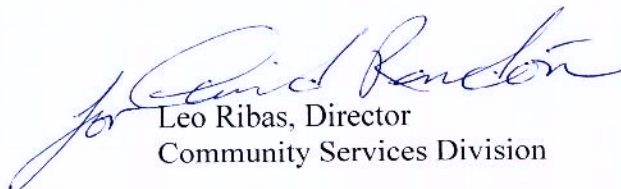
In addition, the State is requesting waivers for the Muckleshoot Reservation within King County and the Tulalip Reservation in Snohomish County. Because unemployment data was not available for these areas, the State used census share ratios based on the 2000 Census and whole county data obtained from BLS. The Muckleshoot and Tulalip Reservations qualify based on having an average unemployment rate that is at least 20 percent above the national average (5.6%) during June 2005 through May 2007.

We are requesting that the waiver be granted through September 30, 2009.

Thank you for your consideration. If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Glynnis Ashley, Food Programs Administrator, at (360) 725-4611 or ashlega@dshs.wa.gov.

Mr. Dennis Stewart
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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Leo Ribas", is written over the printed name and title.

Leo Ribas, Director
Community Services Division

Enclosures

cc: Troy Hutson
David Rendon
Marijo Olson
Sandy Miller, ESD
Barbara Bucsko
Glynnis Ashley
Sarah Colleen Sotomish
Mike J. Hart
Lisa Kim, FNS
Maribelle Balbes, FNS
Nick Espinosa