

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

Area	Unemployment Rate, JUN 2005-MAY 2007
Adams County	6.4
Asotin County	5.0
Benton County	5.7
Chelan County	5.3
Clallam County	6.0
Clark County	5.9
Columbia County	8.1
Cowlitz County	6.6
Douglas County	5.1
Ferry County	9.1
Franklin County	7.1
Garfield County	5.3
Grant County	6.7
Grays Harbor County	7.2
Island County	5.3
Jefferson County	5.1
Kitsap County	4.8
Kittitas County	5.3
Klickitat County	7.2
Lewis County	7.2
Lincoln County	5.8
Mason County	6.0
Okanogan County	6.7
Pacific County	6.7
Pend Oreille County	7.5
Pierce County	5.2
San Juan County	3.9
Skagit County	5.3
Skamania County	7.0
Spokane County	5.1
Stevens County	7.3
Thurston County	4.7
Wahkiakum County	6.6
Walla Walla County	5.4
Whatcom County	4.6
Whitman County	4.0
Yakima County	6.9
Total for Sub-region	5.6

21 Counties: Adams, Benton, Clallam, Clark, Columbia, Cowlitz, Ferry, Franklin, Grant, Grays Harbor, Klickitat, Lewis, Lincoln, Mason, Okanogan, Pacific, Pend Oreille, Skamania, Stevens, Wahkiakum, and Yakima Counties qualify for waivers based on having average unemployment rates of at least 20 percent above the national average during June 2005 through May 2007. 16 Counties: Asotin, Chelan, Douglas, Garfield, Island, Jefferson, Kitsap, Kittitas, Pierce, San Juan, Skagit, Spokane, Thurston, Walla Walla, Whatcom, and Whitman Counties qualify based on the areas aggregate average unemployment rate which is at least 20 percent above the national average during June 2005 through May 2007.

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 during June 2005 through May 2007. During this time, the national average unemployment rate plus 20 percent was 5.6.

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

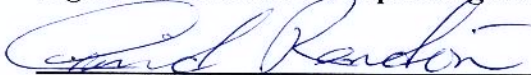
12. Anticipated implementation date and time period for which waiver is needed:

The State is requesting a one-year waiver from October 1, 2008 through September 30, 2009.

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: