



Department of Public Health and Human Services

Human and Community Services Division ♦ PO Box 202925 ♦ Helena, MT 59620-2925

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Steve Bullock, Governor

Richard H. Opper, Director

September 30, 2014

Cheryl Kennedy, Regional Division Director
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
1244 Speer Boulevard, Suite 903
Denver, CO 80204-3585

Dear Ms. Kennedy:

Montana requests a waiver to exclude certain geographic areas from the Able Bodied Adult without Dependents (ABAWD) requirement that households, without an exemption, may only receive SNAP benefits for three months in a 36 month period.

The included analysis uses economic regions defined as "Labor Market Regions" by the State of Montana Department of Labor and Industry. The analysis identifies groups of counties within these regions as eligible for waivers based on their combined unemployment rates.

This particular analysis is different in that the counties listed are not all contiguous but are part of the same economic region. The analysis supports Montana's waiver request from the ABAWD requirements for fifteen counties and five reservations.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this waiver request. If you have any questions concerning this waiver request, please contact me at (406) 444 5288.

Sincerely,

Katherine Buckley-Patton, Deputy Administrator
Human and Community Services Division

cc: Melinda Cummings, Kathe Quittenton