



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR BILL WALKER

**Department of
Health and Social Services**

DIVISION OF PUBLIC ASSISTANCE
Policy and Program Development

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June 15, 2015

Dennis Stewart
Regional Director
FNS/WRO/USDA
90 Seventh Street, Suite 10-100
San Francisco, CA 94103

Dear Mr. Stewart:

The State of Alaska is submitting the enclosed request for approval of a waiver modification concerning ABAWD work requirements from SNAP time limits from January 1, 2016 through December 31, 2016.

Under SNAP regulations at 7 CFR 273.24(f)(2), areas may qualify for an ABAWD time limit waiver if they have insufficient jobs. Alaska is supplying evidence that a large portion of our state has an average unemployment rate for a 24-month time period that is at least 20% above the national average for the same 24-month period.

If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Beth Affatato at (907)465-3201.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Monica Mitchell".

Monica Mitchell
Chief of Policy and Program Development
Division of Public Assistance

STATE WAIVER REQUEST

1. Waiver Serial Number (if applicable):

2030035

2. Type of request:

Modification

3. Regulatory citation:

7 CFR 273.24

4. State:

Alaska

5. Region:

WRO

6. Regulatory requirements:

Under 7 CFR 273.24(b) individuals are not eligible to participate in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) as a member of any household if the individual received program benefits for more than 3 months during any 3 year period in which the individual was subject to, but did not comply with, the SNAP work requirements. Regulations at 273.24(a) provide that fulfilling the work requirement means: working 20 hours or more per week, averaged monthly; participating in and complying with the requirements of a work program or a workfare program for at least 20 hours per week; or any combination of working and participating in a work program for a total of 20 hours per week.

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 time limit described above for any group of individuals in the State if FNS makes a determination that the area in which the individuals reside does not have a sufficient number of jobs to provide employment for the individuals.

7. Description of alternative procedures:

The State of Alaska is requesting to exempt able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWDs) in 28 boroughs and census areas and 155 Alaska Native Village Statistical Areas (ANVSAs) from SNAP time limits at 7 CFR 273.24.

8. Justification for request:

Under SNAP regulations at 7 CFR 273.24(f)(2), areas may qualify for an ABAWD time limit waiver if they have insufficient jobs. To support this claim, states may submit evidence that an area has an average unemployment rate for a 24-month time period that is at least 20 percent above the national average for the same 24-month period. 7 CFR 273.24(f)(6) provides that States may define areas to be waived.

The State of Alaska seeks a waiver for an area of contiguous boroughs and census areas based on their average unemployment rates for the 24-month period of April 2013 through March 2015. This area includes 28 boroughs and census areas. The national average unemployment rate for this 24-month period was 6.5 percent; 20 percent above this was 7.8 percent. The unemployment rate for this region was 8.1 percent for this period.

April 2013-March 2015		
Borough or Census Area	Unemployed	Labor Force
Aleutians East Borough, AK	2,761	54,038
Aleutians West Census Area, AK	5,863	104,772
Bethel Census Area, AK	28,217	176,127
Bristol Bay Borough, AK	985	11,795
Denali Borough, AK	2,711	25,650
Dillingham Census Area, AK	5,056	51,241
Fairbanks North Star Borough, AK	64,920	1,132,638
Haines Borough, AK	2,781	26,899
Hoonah-Angoon Census Area, AK	4,147	27,254
Juneau Borough/city, AK	20,981	419,389
Kenai Peninsula Borough, AK	52,589	670,886
Ketchikan Gateway Borough, AK	12,716	170,927
Kodiak Island Borough, AK	9,206	159,394
Lake and Peninsula Borough, AK	2,212	15,077
Matanuska-Susitna Borough, AK	85,229	1,058,011
Nome Census Area, AK	12,225	100,281
North Slope Borough, AK	6,378	102,046
Northwest Arctic Borough, AK	12,124	73,654
Petersburg Census Area, AK	3,739	39,536
Prince of Wales-Hyder Census Area, AK	8,598	67,228
Sitka Borough/city, AK	5,787	111,793
Skagway Municipality, AK	2,285	19,147
Southeast Fairbanks Census Area, AK	9,142	71,025
Valdez-Cordova Census Area, AK	11,406	118,125
Wade Hampton Census Area, AK	16,071	67,543
Wrangell Borough/city, AK	2,118	25,495
Yakutat Borough/city, AK	633	6,738
Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area, AK	11,859	63,699
Total for Region	402,739	4,970,408
Combined Region Unemployment Rate	8.1%	
20% Above National Average Threshold	7.8%	

The State also requests to waive 155 Alaska Native Village Statistical Areas based on having average unemployment rates at least 20 percent above the national average for a recent 24-month period. The ANVSA unemployment rates were calculated by applying 2013 American Community Survey¹ share ratios to borough- and census area-level BLS data from April 2013-March 2015. The national average unemployment rate for this 24-

¹ These calculations are based on data from the 2009-2013 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates.

month period was 6.5 percent; 20 percent above this was 7.8 percent. The following table summarizes the calculations:

April 2013-March 2015			
Alaska Native Village Statistical Area	Unemployed	Labor Force	Unemployment Rate
Annette Island Reserve, AK	2,558	17,878	14.3%
Akhiok ANVSA, AK	293	896	32.7%
Akiachak ANVSA, AK	1,408	5,785	24.3%
Akiak ANVSA, AK	1,143	4,077	28.0%
Alakanuk ANVSA, AK	932	5,010	18.6%
Aleknagik ANVSA, AK	519	2,000	25.9%
Algaaciq ANVSA, AK	790	4,565	17.3%
Allakaket ANVSA, AK	566	1,543	36.7%
Ambler ANVSA, AK	644	2,251	28.6%
Anaktuvuk Pass ANVSA, AK	189	2,096	9.0%
Andreafsky ANVSA, AK	284	1,196	23.7%
Angoon ANVSA, AK	1,232	6,021	20.5%
Aniak ANVSA, AK	612	5,771	10.6%
Anvik ANVSA, AK	105	1,005	10.4%
Arctic Village ANVSA, AK	335	1,235	27.1%
Atmautluak ANVSA, AK	530	2,609	20.3%
Barrow ANVSA, AK	3,656	39,048	9.4%
Beaver ANVSA, AK	335	1,492	22.5%
Bethel ANVSA, AK	6,876	78,862	8.7%
Birch Creek ANVSA, AK	63	63	100.0%
Brevig Mission ANVSA, AK	1,094	3,775	29.0%
Buckland ANVSA, AK	932	4,071	22.9%
Cantwell ANVSA, AK	803	2,463	32.6%
Chalkyitsik ANVSA, AK	84	521	16.1%
Cheformak ANVSA, AK	1,061	4,509	23.5%
Chenega ANVSA, AK	500	976	51.2%
Chevak ANVSA, AK	2,067	9,970	20.7%
Chignik ANVSA, AK	86	760	11.3%
Chignik Lake ANVSA, AK	86	678	12.7%
Chilkat ANVSA, AK	151	1,331	11.3%
Chistochina ANVSA, AK	83	560	14.9%
Chitina ANVSA, AK	139	615	22.6%
Chuathbaluk ANVSA, AK	82	864	9.4%
Clarks Point ANVSA, AK	104	883	11.7%
Copper Center ANVSA, AK	694	5,618	12.3%
Craig ANVSA, AK	2,108	21,257	9.9%
Crooked Creek ANVSA, AK	245	1,076	22.8%
Deering ANVSA, AK	96	1,085	8.8%
Dot Lake ANVSA, AK	363	550	66.1%
Eagle ANVSA, AK	151	213	70.9%
Eek ANVSA, AK	755	2,687	28.1%
Elim ANVSA, AK	563	3,022	18.6%
Emmonak ANVSA, AK	1,723	8,030	21.5%
False Pass ANVSA, AK	180	416	43.3%
Fort Yukon ANVSA, AK	880	5,971	14.7%
Gakona ANVSA, AK	278	1,775	15.6%
Gambell ANVSA, AK	1,735	7,146	24.3%
Golovin ANVSA, AK	328	1,337	24.6%

Goodnews Bay ANVSA, AK	612	1,883	32.5%
Grayling ANVSA, AK	440	1,289	34.1%
Holy Cross ANVSA, AK	733	2,765	26.5%
Hoonah ANVSA, AK	1,407	7,899	17.8%
Hooper Bay ANVSA, AK	3,040	9,221	33.0%
Hughes ANVSA, AK	335	772	43.4%
Huslia ANVSA, AK	377	2,769	13.6%
Hydaburg ANVSA, AK	687	4,020	17.1%
Igiugig ANVSA, AK	29	335	8.6%
Kake ANVSA, AK	1,501	4,892	30.7%
Kalskag ANVSA, AK	367	1,712	21.5%
Kaltag ANVSA, AK	1,110	2,525	44.0%
Karluk ANVSA, AK	73	274	26.7%
Kasaan ANVSA, AK	118	638	18.5%
Kasigluk ANVSA, AK	1,061	4,288	24.7%
Kiana ANVSA, AK	726	2,778	26.1%
King Salmon ANVSA, AK	123	1,355	9.1%
Kipnuk ANVSA, AK	1,285	5,809	22.1%
Kivalina ANVSA, AK	836	3,827	21.8%
Klawock ANVSA, AK	805	6,030	13.4%
Knik ANVSA, AK	64,201	777,690	8.3%
Kobuk ANVSA, AK	164	906	18.1%
Kokhanok ANVSA, AK	144	981	14.6%
Kongiganak ANVSA, AK	1,265	3,466	36.5%
Kotlik ANVSA, AK	952	5,385	17.7%
Kotzebue ANVSA, AK	3,767	36,621	10.3%
Koyuk ANVSA, AK	516	1,795	28.7%
Koyukuk ANVSA, AK	293	1,039	28.2%
Kwethluk ANVSA, AK	939	5,511	17.0%
Kwigillingok ANVSA, AK	367	2,274	16.1%
Kwinhagak ANVSA, AK	1,000	5,279	18.9%
Levelock ANVSA, AK	431	1,350	31.9%
Lower Kalskag ANVSA, AK	775	3,172	24.4%
McGrath ANVSA, AK	587	5,241	11.2%
Manley Hot Springs ANVSA, AK	105	696	15.0%
Manokotak ANVSA, AK	786	5,282	14.9%
Marshall ANVSA, AK	1,054	3,283	32.1%
Mekoryuk ANVSA, AK	653	2,438	26.8%
Mentasta Lake ANVSA, AK	805	2,075	38.8%
Minto ANVSA, AK	691	2,389	28.9%
Mountain Village ANVSA, AK	1,196	6,388	18.7%
Naknek ANVSA, AK	657	7,056	9.3%
Nanwalek ANVSA, AK	1,005	2,414	41.6%
Napakiak ANVSA, AK	490	2,592	18.9%
Napaskiak ANVSA, AK	551	3,583	15.4%
Nelson Lagoon ANVSA, AK	120	434	27.7%
Nenana ANVSA, AK	1,257	6,811	18.5%
Newhalen ANVSA, AK	517	1,865	27.7%
New Koliganek ANVSA, AK	415	1,741	23.9%
New Stuyahok ANVSA, AK	697	4,413	15.8%
Newtok ANVSA, AK	530	2,853	18.6%
Nightmute ANVSA, AK	388	3,297	11.8%
Nikolai ANVSA, AK	251	586	42.9%
Ninilchik ANVSA, AK	14,110	172,163	8.2%
Noatak ANVSA, AK	753	3,596	21.0%

Nondalton ANVSA, AK	689	2,160	31.9%
Noorvik ANVSA, AK	1,137	5,414	21.0%
Northway ANVSA, AK	666	2,115	31.5%
Nuiqsut ANVSA, AK	503	3,217	15.6%
Nulato ANVSA, AK	524	2,915	18.0%
Nunapitchuk ANVSA, AK	673	3,583	18.8%
Old Harbor ANVSA, AK	275	2,151	12.8%
Oscarville ANVSA, AK	326	791	41.3%
Ouzinkie ANVSA, AK	642	2,562	25.0%
Perryville ANVSA, AK	115	707	16.3%
Pilot Point ANVSA, AK	86	433	19.9%
Pilot Station ANVSA, AK	1,682	5,330	31.6%
Pitkas Point ANVSA, AK	486	1,474	33.0%
Platinum ANVSA, AK	163	554	29.4%
Point Hope ANVSA, AK	629	5,176	12.1%
Port Graham ANVSA, AK	360	1,575	22.9%
Ruby ANVSA, AK	1,090	2,375	45.9%
Russian Mission ANVSA, AK	1,074	3,531	30.4%
St. Michael ANVSA, AK	453	3,233	14.0%
St. Paul ANVSA, AK	1,209	7,877	15.4%
Sand Point ANVSA, AK	1,921	21,316	9.0%
Savoonga ANVSA, AK	1,641	6,241	26.3%
Saxman ANVSA, AK	876	4,555	19.2%
Scammon Bay ANVSA, AK	750	2,802	26.8%
Selawik ANVSA, AK	1,397	4,636	30.1%
Shageluk ANVSA, AK	126	1,026	12.3%
Shaktolik ANVSA, AK	281	2,003	14.0%
Shishmaref ANVSA, AK	453	4,069	11.1%
Shungnak ANVSA, AK	1,096	3,123	35.1%
Skagway ANVSA, AK	2,285	19,147	11.9%
Sleetmute ANVSA, AK	184	795	23.1%
South Naknek ANVSA, AK	205	832	24.7%
Stebbins ANVSA, AK	610	3,438	17.7%
Stevens Village ANVSA, AK	84	392	21.4%
Stony River ANVSA, AK	61	526	11.6%
Tanacross ANVSA, AK	151	545	27.8%
Tanana ANVSA, AK	314	2,654	11.8%
Tazlina ANVSA, AK	749	4,062	18.4%
Teller ANVSA, AK	344	1,992	17.3%
Tetlin ANVSA, AK	91	691	13.1%
Togiak ANVSA, AK	756	5,486	13.8%
Toksook Bay ANVSA, AK	1,469	5,944	24.7%
Tuluksak ANVSA, AK	836	2,939	28.5%
Tuntutuliak ANVSA, AK	653	2,682	24.3%
Tununak ANVSA, AK	816	2,601	31.4%
Tyonek ANVSA, AK	531	3,033	17.5%
Unalakleet ANVSA, AK	641	7,184	8.9%
Venetie ANVSA, AK	419	1,396	30.0%
Wainwright ANVSA, AK	602	4,214	14.3%
White Mountain ANVSA, AK	313	1,641	19.1%
Wrangell ANVSA, AK	1,471	12,806	11.5%
Yakutat ANVSA, AK	633	6,099	10.4%
20% Above National Average Threshold	7.8%		

9. 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.

10. Caseload information, including percent, characteristics, and quality control error rate for affection portion (if applicable):

The caseload for these areas, as of June 15, 2015, represents 63% of the caseload for the state. There are no quality control procedures involved.

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

The State is requesting a one-year waiver, from January 1, 2016 through December 31, 2016.

12. Proposed quality control review procedures:

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

13. State agency submitting waiver request and State contact person:

14. Signature and title of requesting official:



Monica Mitchell

Chief of Policy & Program Development, Division of Public Assistance

15. Date of request: June 15, 2015

16. State agency staff contact (name/email/telephone):

Beth Affatato

Beth.affatato@alaska.gov

(907)465-3201

17. Regional office contact person:

Dawn Baker

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