

WAIVER REQUEST

1. Waiver Serial Number:
2. Type of Request: WAIVER REQUEST
3. Primary Regulation Citation: 7 CFR 273.24
4. Secondary Regulation Citation, if any: None
5. State: Territory of Guam
6. Region: Western
7. Regulatory Requirement: 7 CFR 273.24 provide that no individual, who is able bodied without a dependent (ABAWD), shall be eligible to participate in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) as a member of any household if, during the preceding 36-month period, the individual received SNAP 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; did not participate in and comply with the work requirements of a work program of 20 hours or more per week; did not participate in and comply with the requirements of a program under Section 20 of the Act or comparable program established by the state; or received benefits because they were exempt from these requirements.

7 CFR 273.24(f) also provides that, upon the request of a State Agency, the Secretary may waive the applicability of the above provision for any group of individuals in the State if the Secretary 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 for the individuals.
8. Description of alternative procedures: The Territory of Guam Department of Public Health & Social Services is requesting an island-wide exemption of able-bodied adults without dependents from SNAP time limits at 7 CFR 273.24.
9. Justification for Request: Guam's high unemployment rate is the justification for this request due to insufficient jobs. Additionally, Guam does not issue unemployment benefits to residents. Labor data derived from sample surveys of households conducted by the Guam Department of Labor Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) (<http://dol.guam.gov>) for the past twelve (12) periodic surveys showed the following.

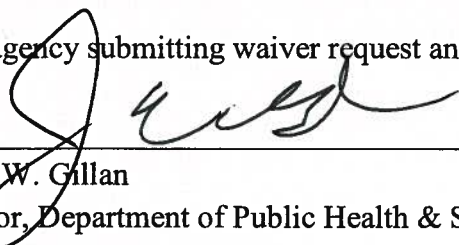
Guam Unemployment Rate

Year	Month	Labor Force	Unemployed	UER	20 Percent Threshold
2014	MAR	72,070	5,350	7.4	
2013	DEC	70,490	5,940	8.4	
2013	SEP	71,430	7,160	10	
2013	JUN	70,420	10,310	14.6	
2013	MAR	73,170	9,730	13.3	
2012	DEC	72,560	7,800	10.7	
2012	SEP	72,980	7,970	10.9	
2012	JUN	72,890	10,190	14	
2012	MAR	68,400	8,060	11.8	
2011	MAR	74,950	9,970	13.3	
2009	SEP	70,310	6,510	9.3	
2007	SEP	63,600	5,310	8.3	
Total		853,270	94,300	11	

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, characteristics, and quality control error rate for affected portion (if applicable): The number of ABAWD cases as of July 2015 are 1,157 which represents 7.47% of the caseload for Guam. There are no quality control procedures involved.
12. Anticipated implementation date and time period for which waiver is needed: The State is requesting a one-year waiver, from October 1, 2015 to September 30, 2016.

13. Proposed quality control review procedures: There are no special quality control procedures needed in conjunction with this waiver.

14. State agency submitting waiver request and state contact person:



James W. Gillan
Director, Department of Public Health & Social Services
Mangilao, Guam 96913

15. Date of request:

16. State agency staff contact:

Annie VT. Gozum Soto
annie.soto@dphss.guam.gov
(671) 735-7257

17. Regional office contact person: *(to be completed by FNS regional office)*