

STATE WAIVER REQUEST

1. **Waiver Serial Number (if applicable):** 2150041
2. **Type of request:** Modification and extension
3. **Statutory citation:** Section 6(o) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008, as amended
4. **Regulatory citation:** 7 CFR 273.24
5. **State:** Alaska
6. **Region:** WRO
7. **Regulatory requirements:** Section 6(o) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008, as amended, provides that no able-bodied adult without dependents (ABAWD) shall be 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 ABAWD work requirement. Section 6(o) also provides that, upon the request of the State agency, the Secretary may waive the applicability of the 3-month ABAWD time limit 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 employment for the individuals.
8. **Description of alternative procedures:** The State of Alaska is requesting a 2-year statewide waiver from SNAP time limits at 7 CFR 273.24.
9. **Justification for request:** This request to exempt residents residing in the entire State from the time limit in 7 CFR 273.24 due to having insufficient jobs is based on the State having an average unemployment rate greater than 20 percent above the national average for the 36-month period of November 2013 through October 2016. 7 CFR 273.24 (f)(2)(ii) states that, "To support a claim of lack of sufficient jobs, a State may submit evidence that an area (...) has a 24-month average unemployment rate 20 percent above the national average for the same 24-month period." Guidance issued by FNS in February 2006 states that areas can be eligible for two-year waivers if they demonstrate that an area has "an unemployment rate greater than 20 percent above the national average for a 36-month period, ending no earlier than three months prior to the request".¹

The State of Alaska seeks a statewide waiver based on the State having an average unemployment rate greater than 20 percent above the national average for the 36-

¹ Memo dated February 3, 2006. "FSP – 2-Year Approval of Waivers of the Work Requirements for ABAWDs under 7 CFR 273.24." <http://www.fns.usda.gov/sites/default/files/020306.pdf>

month period of November 2013 through October 2016. Alaska's average unemployment rate for this 36-month period was 6.4 percent. The national average for this period was 5.5 percent; 20 percent above this was 6.6 percent.

Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data November 2013 through October 2016		
	Unemployed	Labor force
Alaska	877,472	13,089,708
Unemployment Rate	6.7%	
20% Above the National Average Unemployment Rate Threshold	6.6%	

10. **Anticipated impact on households and State agency operations:** This waiver will provide consistency for state operations.
11. **Caseload information, including percent, characteristics, and quality control error rate for affection portion (if applicable):** This waiver affects the entire state.
12. **Anticipated implementation date and time period for which waiver is needed:**
The State is requesting a one-year waiver, from January 1, 2017 through December 31, 2018.
13. **Proposed quality control review procedures:** There are no quality control procedures involved.
14. **State agency submitting waiver request and State contact person:**

Monica Windom
Chief of Policy & Program Development
State of Alaska Department of Health & Social Services
Division of Public Assistance
15. **Signature and title of requesting official:**

Monica Windom

Title: Chief of Policy & Program Development

Email for transmission of response: monica.windom@alaska.gov
16. **Date of request:** November 29, 2016

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

Monica Windom
Chief of Policy & Program Development
State of Alaska – Dept. of Health and Social Services – Division of Public Assistance
907-465-5835
monica.windom@alaska.gov

or

Rachel Martinez
Public Assistance Analyst
State of Alaska – Dept. of Health and Social Services – Division of Public Assistance
907-465-3201
rachel.martinez@alaska.gov

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