



DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC SECURITY

Your Partner For A Stronger Arizona

Douglas A. Ducey
Governor

Timothy Jeffries
Director

July 12, 2016

Mr. Dennis Stewart
Division Director
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
Western Regional Office
90 Seventh Street, Suite 10-100
San Francisco, California 94103

Dear Mr. Stewart:

The State of Arizona, Department of Economic Security requests an extension and modification to its able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWD) waiver for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits. Our current ABAWD waiver expires December 31, 2016.

The national average unemployment rate for the 24-month period of April 2014 through March 2016 was 5.5 percent. The threshold of 20 percent above the national average as allowed per 7 CFR 273.24(f)(2) is 6.6 percent. Arizona has 14 counties that exceed the criteria to be eligible for a waiver. The combined regional unemployment rate for these counties was 10 percent. Arizona also has one city, Apache Junction, which exceeds the required threshold. This city overlaps two counties, one within the proposed waiver area and the other county, Maricopa County, not included in the requested waiver area. During the 24-month period mentioned above, Apache Junction's unemployment rate was 9.1 percent and as such, will be included in the waived areas to simplify administration.

Additionally, 18 of Arizona's Native American Reservations individually exceed the required threshold of 6.6 percent. These unemployment rates were calculated by applying 2013 American Community Survey share ratios to county level Bureau of Labor Statistics data using the same two year period as above.

Based on the data noted above, Arizona seeks your approval to exempt ABAWDs in 12 counties, one city, all Native American Reservations that individually exceed the 6.6 percent threshold and two Native American Reservations located within waived counties. These areas combined represent 26.72 percent of Arizona's caseload.

Mr. Dennis Stewart
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If you have any questions or require additional information, please feel free to contact Jutta Ulrich, Division of Employment and Rehabilitation Services (DERS) Workforce Policy and Support Team Manager at (602) 771-1322 or via email at julrich@azdes.gov.

Sincerely,



Chevera Trillo
Workforce Administrator
Employment and Rehabilitation Services

Enclosures

cc: Michael Wisheart, DERS Assistant Director
Sean Price, DBME Assistant Director
Mary Huyser, DES Tribal Relations Liaison
Chris Hisel, DERS Deputy Administrator
Jutta Ulrich, DERS Workforce Policy and Support Team Manager