

**SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SNAP)
WAIVER REQUEST
Oregon's 2017 Labor Surplus Waiver**

- 1. Waiver Serial Number (if applicable):** 2000039
- 2. Type of request:**
Amendment 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:**
Oregon
- 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 Oregon is requesting to exempt able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWDs) in 33 counties from SNAP time limits at 7 CFR

273.24. The counties are: Baker, Benton, Clatsop, Columbia, Coos, Crook, Curry, Deschutes, Douglas, Gilliam, Grant, Harney, Hood River, Jackson, Jefferson, Josephine, Klamath, Lake, Lane, Lincoln, Linn, Malheur, Marion, Morrow, Polk, Sherman, Tillamook, Umatilla, Union, Wallowa, Wasco, Wheeler and Yamhill. These individuals will continue to be subject to the SNAP Employment and Training (E&T) requirements. However, they will not be subject to the three-month time limit. They will also not be required to work 20 hours a week or participate in workfare to remain eligible for SNAP benefits beyond three months.

9. Justification for request:

Under SNAP regulations at 7 CFR 273.24(f)(2), areas may support a claim of insufficient jobs by submitting evidence that an area has an average unemployment rate for a 24-month time period that exceeds the national average for the same 24-month period by 20 percent. 7 CFR 273.24(f)(6) provides that States may define areas to be waived.

The State of Oregon seeks a waiver for a regional group of 33 contiguous counties based on the region's aggregate average unemployment rate for the 24-month period of January 2014 through December 2015. All reservation lands in Oregon are included in these 33 counties. The average national unemployment rate for this period was 5.7 percent; 20 percent above this was 6.9 percent. The region's aggregate average unemployment rate for this period was 7.0 percent.

Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data January 2014 through December 2015		
Contiguous Counties	Unemployed Total	Labor Force Total
Baker County	12,249	160,857
Benton County	50,361	1,074,373
Clatsop County	26,502	435,953
Columbia County	42,490	543,463
Coos County	51,625	623,852
Crook County	19,778	215,446
Curry County	19,301	207,122
Deschutes County	135,752	1,983,171
Douglas County	89,235	1,059,975
Gilliam County	1,437	19,619

Grant County	7,246	74,588
Harney County	6,677	78,992
Hood River County	16,744	327,766
Jackson County	178,812	2,332,404
Jefferson County	18,612	228,073
Josephine County	68,254	791,426
Klamath County	59,426	684,664
Lake County	7,280	83,432
Lane County	262,964	4,089,012
Lincoln County	35,969	492,513
Linn County	97,978	1,304,758
Malheur County	20,765	288,087
Marion County	244,044	3,621,156
Morrow County	8,393	132,101
Polk County	54,175	862,965
Sherman County	1,464	21,258
Tillamook County	17,104	269,791
Umatilla County	60,395	845,976
Union County	18,946	278,755
Wallowa County	6,918	77,561
Wasco County	19,620	318,725
Wheeler County	991	17,221
Yamhill County	71,567	1,213,540
Combined Area Total	1,733,074	24,758,595
Combined Area Unemployment Rate	6.9%	
20% Above National Average Threshold	7.0%	

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. ABAWDs residing in the 33 waived counties will be required to comply with the requirements to register for work, and accept a job if offered. They will be invited to participate in the SNAP E&T program. They will continue to be offered the work components offered to all SNAP E&T clients in Oregon. However, ABAWD's residing in the waived areas will not be subject to the three-month time limit.

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

The caseload for these 33 counties, as of May 31, 2016, represent 65% of the caseload for the state. There are no quality control procedures involved.

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

The State is requesting an eight (8) month waiver, from January 1, 2017 through August 31, 2017.

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:

Department of Human Services, Self-Sufficiency Programs.

15. Signature and title of requesting official:



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16. Date of request: 7/22/16

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

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