



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

Department of Human Services

Office of Self Sufficiency

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December 22, 2016

Dennis Stewart, Director
Western Region
FNS, USDA
90 Seventh Street, Suite 10-100
San Francisco, CA 94103

Dear Mr. Stewart:

The Oregon Department of Human Services (DHS) SNAP is operating under waiver 2000039 which suspends time limits on able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWD). The current waiver expires on August 31, 2017.

In August 2016, Oregon requested renewal of this waiver of the three-month time limit for ABAWDs for 33 contiguous counties based on the region's aggregate average unemployment rate for the period January 1, 2017 through August 31, 2017. The waived areas experienced an averaged unemployment rate of at least 20 percent of the national average over a 24-month period from January 2014 through December 2015. All reservation lands in Oregon are included in these 33 counties. We believe the high unemployment rate qualifies these counties to be exempt from the three-month time limit for ABAWDs. This request was for a period of eight months instead of the usual 12 months.

On September 19, 2016, FNS approved this eight month waiver extension for the period January 1, 2017 through August 31, 2017.

After discussion with community partners, Oregon is now requesting a modification to extend the waiver for the full 12 months to end December 31, 2017.

Enclosed with this letter is the FNS approval for the 8 month waiver for your reference in reviewing the request to modify Oregon's Labor Surplus waiver for January 1, 2017 through December 31, 2017.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Belit Burke, Self-Sufficiency Program Design Manager
Self-Sufficiency Programs
Oregon Department of Human Services

Enclosure