

STATE WAIVER REQUEST

1. **Waiver Serial Number (if applicable):**
2. **Type of request:**
Modification
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:**
Washington
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 Washington is requesting to exempt able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWDs) in 38 counties and 1 reservation from SNAP time limits at 7 CFR 273.24. This request would modify the state's waiver approved for 2017 by adding one county, Snohomish County, and one reservation, Muckleshoot Reservation, to the group of approved counties.
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 Washington seeks a waiver for a regional group of 38 contiguous counties based on the region's aggregate average unemployment rate for the 24-month period of August 2014 through July 2016. The average national unemployment rate for this period was 5.3 percent; 20 percent above this was 6.3 percent. The region's aggregate average unemployment rate for this period was 6.4 percent.

Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data August 2014 through July 2016		
Contiguous Counties	Unemployed Total	Labor Force Total
Adams County	14,338	208,603
Asotin County	11,656	235,998
Benton County	148,345	2,213,020
Chelan County	59,506	1,036,477
Clallam County	52,531	647,726
Clark County	332,198	5,150,561
Columbia County	2,777	41,609
Cowlitz County	81,207	1,069,650
Douglas County	32,230	478,710
Ferry County	6,279	59,870
Franklin County	72,265	938,707
Garfield County	1,397	22,330
Grant County	79,065	1,086,294
Grays Harbor County	59,270	650,348
Island County	47,630	768,445
Jefferson County	19,775	270,086
Kitsap County	158,171	2,781,661
Kittitas County	31,512	504,358
Klickitat County	16,482	226,695
Lewis County	63,135	748,033
Lincoln County	6,925	120,623
Mason County	43,785	559,625
Okanogan County	35,860	510,284
Pacific County	17,322	191,080
Pend Oreille County	10,518	111,460
Pierce County	610,605	9,477,716
San Juan County	9,106	185,504

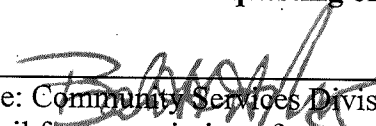
Skagit County	93,419	1,372,995
Skamania County	8,904	121,034
Snohomish county	475,035	9,667,166
Spokane County	359,185	5,500,674
Stevens County	37492	424,434
Thurston County	182,823	3,035,925
Wahkiakum County	2,812	30,833
Walla Walla County	39,675	679,497
Whatcom County	151,561	2,482,791
Whitman County	26,532	546,604
Yakima County	239,406	2,944,413
Combined Area Total	3,640,734	57,101,839
Combined Area Unemployment Rate	6.4%	
20% Above National Average Threshold	6.3%	

The State of Washington seeks a waiver for Muckleshoot Reservation based on having average unemployment rates 20 percent above the national average for a recent 24-month period. The reservation unemployment rates were calculated by applying 2014 5-year American Community Survey (ACS) share ratios to county-level Bureau of Labor Statistics data for August 2014 through July 2016.

American Community Survey and Bureau of Labor Statistics Data August 2014 through July 2016			
Reservations	Unemployed	Labor Force	Unemploye nt Rate
King County (part); Washington (part); Muckleshoot Reservation and Off-Reservation Trust Land, WA	3,556	39,232	9.1%
Pierce County (part); Washington (part); Muckleshoot Reservation and Off-Reservation Trust Land, WA	0	44	0.0%
Muckleshoot Reservation	3,556	39,276	9.1%

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):**
As of September 2016, the approximate number of ABAWD clients in King County (minus Muckleshoot Reservation) is 1.5% (14,298¹ of Washington's total SNAP recipient population (955,008²). 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 January 1, 2017 through December 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:**
Babs Roberts, Director, Community Services Division, Economic Services Administration, Department of Social and Health Services, Washington State
- 15. Signature and title of requesting official:**

Title: Community Services Division Director
Email for transmission of response: Babs.Roberts@dshs.wa.gov
- 16. Date of request:**
- 17. State agency staff contact (name/email/telephone):**
Shavana Howard, Basic Food Policy Administrator
Shavana.Howard@dshs.wa.gov
360-725-4338
- 18. Regional office contact person (to be completed by FNS regional office):**

¹ ABAWD Participation September 2016 Report- EMAPs

² Statewide: Basic Food Clients Summary – EMAPs Pulled 10/21/16