



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES
COMMUNITY SERVICES DIVISION
Economic Services Administration
Post Office Box 45440 Olympia WA 98504-5440

October 25, 2016

Dennis Stewart, Regional Director
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
United States Department of Agriculture
Western Region, Food and Nutrition Service
90 Seventh Street, Suite 10-100
San Francisco, California 94103

Dear Mr. Stewart:

Thank you for your approval of our first Able Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWD) requirements waiver request. Shortly after receiving the approval, the Center on Budget Policy and Priorities (CBPP) contacted the State with news that the latest quarter of data shows Washington's unemployment rate is higher than the national average. Therefore, Washington State is requesting an amendment to our current FFY 17 waiver to add Snohomish County and the Muckleshoot Reservation (located within King County) to our waived areas.

Under SNAP regulations, 7 CFR §273.24(f)(2), areas may qualify for an ABAWD time limit waiver if they have insufficient jobs. To support this claim, states may submit evidence that an area has a 24-month unemployment rate average that exceeds the national average by 20 percent for the same time period. See, 7 CFR §273.24(f)(3)(iii). And, 7 CFR §273.24(f)(6) provides that States may define areas to be waived.

The previous waiver request used the 24-month period of May 2014 through April 2016, indicating a group of 37 counties in the state of Washington had an average unemployment rate of 6.7 percent. For this same time period, the U.S. national average plus 20 percent was 6.5 percent. The updated range used the 24-month period of August 2014 through July 2016 reveals an unemployment rate of 6.4 percent in 38 Washington counties. The average national unemployment rate plus 20 percent for this period was 6.3 percent.

In addition to those counties, the Muckleshoot tribal reservation area is also eligible for a waiver based on having average unemployment rates of 9.1 percent for the observed period of time. In accordance with our state Administrative Policy No. 7.01, Washington State has obtained a Letter of Support in order to request this waiver on behalf of the Muckleshoot Tribe. Please see the attached resolution by the Muckleshoot Tribal Council.

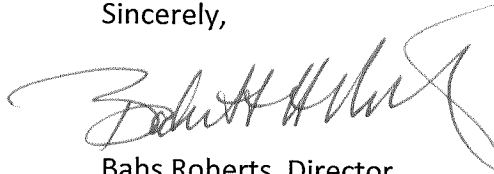
We request exemption for the entire State, except for King County, excluding the Muckleshoot Reservation area, from the work requirements of 7 CFR §273.24 due to having insufficient jobs within

Dennis Stewart
October 25, 2016
Page 2 of 2

the past 24 month period. We are requesting that this waiver be granted from January 1, 2017 through December 31, 2017.

Thank you for your consideration of this waiver request. If you have any questions please contact Shavana Howard at (360) 725-4338, Shavana.Howard@dshs.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Babs Roberts", written in a cursive style.

Babs Roberts, Director
Community Services Division

Enclosure

cc: Shahdy Monemzadeh
Shane Riddle
Andrew Naja-Ries
Bonnie Clark
Corinna Adams
Shavana Howard
Lori Pfingst
Shawn Hartline