



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

July 29, 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:

Washington State is requesting a waiver from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) requirements for Able Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWD) under 7 CFR §273.24 for the entire State, with the exception of the counties of King and Snohomish. Washington State's current ABAWD waiver is set to expire on December 31, 2016.

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.

For the 24-month period of May 2014 through April 2016, 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.

In addition to those counties, the Tulalip and Muckleshoot tribal reservation areas are also eligible for a waiver based on having average unemployment rates of 7 percent and 8.9 percent, respectively. In order to formally ask for these tribal locations to be included with the waiver there must be a Letter of Support from each of the tribes per our state Administrative Policy No. 7.01. As these letters have not been received by the time of this request we ask permission to submit an amendment to this waiver at the time of their arrival.

We request exemption for the entire State, except for King and Snohomish counties, from the work requirements of 7 CFR §273.24 due to having insufficient jobs within 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,

Babette Roberts, Director
Community Services Division

Dennis Stewart
July 29, 2016
Page 2 of 2

Enclosure

Cc:

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