



DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC SECURITY

Your Partner For A Stronger Arizona

Douglas A. Ducey
Governor

Michael Traylor
Director

June 15, 2017

Mr. Dennis Stewart
Division Director
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
Western Regional Office
90 Seventh Street, Suite 10-100
San Francisco, California 94103

Dear Mr. Stewart:

The State of Arizona, Department of Economic Security requests an extension and modification to its able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWD) waiver for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits. Our current ABAWD waiver expires December 31, 2017.

The national average unemployment rate for the 24-month period of February 2015 through January 2017 was 5.0 percent. The threshold of 20 percent above the national average, as allowed per 7 CFR 273.24(f)(2), is 6.0 percent. Arizona has 14 counties that exceed the criteria to be eligible for a waiver. The combined regional unemployment rate for these counties was 9.2 percent. Arizona also has one city, Apache Junction, which exceeds the required threshold. This city overlaps two counties, one within the proposed waiver area and the other county, Maricopa County, not included in the requested waiver area. During the 24-month period mentioned above, Apache Junction's unemployment rate was 12.0 percent and as such, will be included in the waived areas to simplify administration.

Additionally, 17 of Arizona's Native American Reservations individually exceed the required threshold of 6.0 percent. These unemployment rates were calculated by applying 2015 American Community Survey share ratios to county level Bureau of Labor Statistics data using the same two year period as above.

Based on the data noted above, Arizona seeks your approval to exempt ABAWDs in 12 counties, one city, all Native American Reservations that individually exceed the 6.0 percent threshold and three Native American Reservations located within waived counties. These areas combined represent 28.44 percent of Arizona's caseload.

If you have any questions or require additional information, please feel free to contact Gretchen Caraway, DERS Policy Administrator, at (602) 771-1318 or via email at GCaraway@azdes.gov.

Sincerely,

Chevera Trillo
Workforce Administrator
Employment and Rehabilitation Services