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GOVERNOR

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GOVERNMENT OF GUAM
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES
DIPATTAMENTON SALUT PUPBLEKO YAN SETBISION SUSIAT



JAMES W. GILLAN
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FEB 24 2017

Mr. Dennis Stewart
Regional Program Director
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
Western Region
90 Seventh St. #10-100
San Francisco, CA 94108

Dear Mr. Stewart:

Enclosed for your review and approval is Guam's Department of Public Health & Social Services' request to extend waiver number 2140024 upon its expiration on September 30, 2017. This waiver allows Guam to exempt able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWDs) throughout the Territory from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) time limit pursuant to 7 CFR 273.24. As part of this request, are the data provided by Guam Department of Labor, Bureau of Statistics to support Guam's high unemployment rate.

Should you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Ms. Ma. Theresa L. Arcangel, Chief, Division of Public Welfare at (671) 735-7300 or email her at theresa.arcangel@dphss.guam.gov.

Sincerely,


JAMES W. GILLAN
Director

Enclosure

WAIVER EXTENSION REQUEST

1. Waiver Serial Number:

2. Type of Request: WAIVER REQUEST

3. Primary Regulation Citation: 7 CFR 273.24

4. Secondary Regulation Citation, if any: None

5. State: Territory of Guam

6. Region: Western

7. Regulatory Requirement: 7 CFR 273.24 provide that no individual, who is able bodied without a dependent (ABAWD), shall be eligible to participate in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) as a member of any household if, during the preceding 36-month period, the individual received SNAP benefits for not less than 3-months (consecutive or otherwise), during which the individual did not work 20 hours or more per week, averaged monthly; did not participate in and comply with the work requirements of a work program of 20 hours or more per week; did not participate in and comply with the requirements of a program under Section 20 of the Act or comparable program established by the state; or received benefits because they were exempt from these requirements.

7 CFR 273.24(f) also provides that, upon the request of a State Agency, the Secretary may waive the applicability of the above provision 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 for the individuals.

8. Proposed Alternative Procedures: The Territory of Guan of Department of Public Health & Social Services is requesting an island-wide waiver to exempt its ABAWD population from the work requirements of 7 CFR 273.24 based on the high unemployment rate. Labor data is derived from sample surveys of households conducted by the Guam Department of Labor Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) (<http://dol.guam.gov>). These are periodic surveys where field interviews are conducted inquiring about activity or status during the calendar week. Guam does not issue unemployment benefits to residents.

To support Guam's claim of high unemployment, Guam's (unemployment) data collected during the most recent twelve (12) periodic surveys, are:

Guam Statistics

<u>Year</u>	<u>Month</u>	<u>Labor Force</u>	<u>Un-employed</u>
2015	March	70,420	6.9%
2014	December	74,870	7.7%
2014	September	71,060	7.6%
2014	June	70,530	9.0%
2014	March	72,070	7.4%
2013	December	70,490	8.4%
2013	September	71,430	10.0%
2013	June	70,420	14.6%
2013	March	73,170	13.3%
2012	December	72,560	10.7%
2012	September	72,980	10.9%
2012	June	72,890	14.0%

Total 120.5% or an average of 10.04%

United States Statistics

<u>Year</u>	<u>Month</u>	<u>Labor Force</u>	<u>Un-employed</u>
2017	January	7,635,000	4.8%
2016	December	7,529,000	4.7%
2016	November	7,409,000	4.6%
2016	October	7,740,000	4.8%
2016	September	7,904,000	4.9%
2016	August	7,849,000	4.9%
2016	July	7,770,000	4.9%
2016	June	7,783,000	4.9%
2016	May	7,436,000	4.7%
2016	April	7,920,000	5.0%
2016	March	7,966,000	5.0%
2016	February	7,815,000	4.9%

Total 58.1% or an average of 4.8%

9. Action and Reason for Request: Guam is seeking relief from the requirement that ABAWDs meet the 20 hours per week work participation requirement due to lack of sufficient jobs on the island.
10. Regulatory or Legislative Basis for Action: This waiver request is pursuant to 7 CFR 273.24(f)(1)(ii), which allows FNS to waive the applicability of the work requirement provision of 7 CFR 273.24 for any group of individuals in the State if FNS determines that the area in which the individuals reside does not have a sufficient number of jobs to provide employment for the affected individuals.
11. Conditions and Reasons:
12. Information Required for Request: Guam is submitting the Department of Labor data reflecting the most recent 12 periodic surveys (as shown above) which resulted to an unemployment rate of 10.04% to support the claim of insufficient jobs in the Territory.
13. Expiration Date:
14. Limitation on Regional Office Approval of Like Requests:
15. Quality Control Procedures:
16. Date of National Office Action:
17. Date of State Agency's Request:
18. Date of Regional Office Transmittal to the National Office:
19. Date of Regional Transmittal to the State Agency:
20. Date of Implementation by State Agency: