

STATE WAIVER REQUEST

1. **Waiver Serial Number (if applicable):** 2150022
2. **Type of request:** Amendment
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:** Oregon
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 Oregon is requesting to exempt able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWDs) in 29 counties and 8 reservations from SNAP time limits at 7 CFR 273.24.
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 Oregon seeks a waiver for a region of 29 contiguous counties based on the region's aggregate average unemployment rate for the 24-month period of February 2015 through January 2017. The national average unemployment rate for this period was 5.0 percent; 20 percent above this was 6.0 percent. The region's aggregate average unemployment rate for this period was 6.1 percent.

Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data February 2015 through January 2017		
Contiguous Counties	Unemployed Total	Labor Force Total
Baker County	10,721	164,088
Clatsop County	22,605	449,719
Columbia County	36,579	555,277
Coos County	43,165	630,111
Crook County	16,729	220,928
Curry County	15,913	213,720
Deschutes County	111,343	2,104,563
Douglas County	74,137	1,085,369
Gilliam County	1,217	19,887
Grant County	6,072	74,708
Harney County	5,422	81,215
Hood River County	14,656	330,953
Jackson County	148,391	2,403,223
Jefferson County	16,192	234,434
Josephine County	57,184	814,981
Klamath County	50,466	698,417
Lake County	5,794	83,064
Lincoln County	30,191	498,448
Linn County	83,003	1,351,160
Malheur County	17,419	294,654
Morrow County	7,208	135,582
Polk County	47,701	898,959
Sherman County	1,120	21,469
Tillamook County	14,547	277,149
Umatilla County	49,952	860,022
Union County	17,218	285,989
Wallowa County	5,628	79,093
Wasco County	16,687	322,360
Wheeler County	772	16,584
Combined Area Total	928,032	15,206,126
Combined Area Unemployment Rate	6.1%	
20% Above National Average Threshold	6.0%	

The State requests to waive the following 8 reservations based on having average unemployment rates exceeding the national average for a recent 24-month period.

The reservation unemployment rates were calculated by applying 2015 American Community Survey¹ share ratios to county-level Bureau of Labor Statistics data from February 2015 – January 2017. The following table summarizes the calculations:

American Community Survey and Bureau of Labor Statistics Data February 2015 through January 2017			
Reservation	Unemployed	Labor Force	Unemployment Rate
Harney County (part); Oregon (part); Burns Paiute Indian Colony and Off-Reservation Trust Land, OR	370	1,859	19.9%
Total Burns Paiute Indian Reservation	370	1,859	19.9%
Coos County (part); Oregon (part); Coquille Reservation, OR	264	3,817	6.9%
Total Coquille Reservation	264	3,817	6.9%
Douglas County (part); Oregon (part); Cow Creek Reservation and Off-Reservation Trust Land, OR	135	1,439	9.4%
Total Cow Creek Reservation	135	1,439	9.4%
Polk County (part); Oregon (part); Grand Ronde Community and Off-Reservation Trust Land, OR	338	4,296	7.9%
Yamhill County (part); Oregon (part); Grand Ronde Community and Off-Reservation Trust Land, OR	13	228	5.6%
Total Grand Ronde Reservation	351	4,524	7.8%
Klamath County (part); Oregon (part); Klamath Reservation, OR	28	103	26.9%
Total Klamath Reservation	28	103	26.9%
Lincoln County (part); Oregon (part); Siletz Reservation and Off-Reservation Trust Land, OR	796	5,778	13.8%

¹ These calculations are based on data from the 2011-2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates.

Marion County (part); Oregon (part); Siletz Reservation and Off-Reservation Trust Land, OR	0	-	-
Total Siletz Reservation	796	5,778	13.8%
Umatilla County (part); Oregon (part); Umatilla Reservation and Off- Reservation Trust Land, OR	1,816	29,625	6.1%
Union County (part); Oregon (part); Umatilla Reservation and Off- Reservation Trust Land, OR	0	-	-
Total Umatilla Reservation	1,816	29,625	6.1%
Clackamas County (part); Oregon (part); Warm Springs Reservation and Off-Reservation Trust Land, OR	0	-	-
Gilliam County (part); Oregon (part); Warm Springs Reservation and Off- Reservation Trust Land, OR	0	-	-
Hood River County (part); Oregon (part); Warm Springs Reservation and Off-Reservation Trust Land, OR	0	-	-
Jefferson County (part); Oregon (part); Warm Springs Reservation and Off- Reservation Trust Land, OR	5,002	35,091	14.3%
Marion County (part); Oregon (part); Warm Springs Reservation and Off- Reservation Trust Land, OR	0	-	-
Sherman County (part); Oregon (part); Warm Springs Reservation and Off- Reservation Trust Land, OR	0	-	-
Wasco County (part); Oregon (part); Warm Springs Reservation and Off- Reservation Trust Land, OR	1514	8,436	17.9%
Total Warm Springs Reservation	6,516	43,528	15.0%

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 affection portion (if applicable):

The caseload for these areas, as of **September 30, 2017**, represent **59%** of the caseload for the state. 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, 2018 through December 31, 2018.

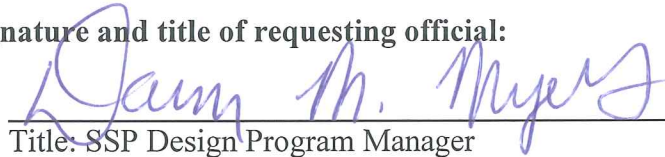
13. Proposed quality control review procedures:

There are no special quality control procedures needed in conjunction with this waiver.

14. State agency submitting waiver request and State contact person:

Department of Human Services, Self-Sufficiency Programs, SNAP Policy

15. Signature and title of requesting official:



Title: SSP Design Program Manager

Email for transmission of response: Dawn.MYERS@dhsosha.state.or.us

16. Date of request: 10/17/2017

17. State agency staff contact (name/email/telephone):

Dawn Myers/Dawn.MYERS@dhsosha.state.or.us/503-947-0195

18. Regional office contact person (to be completed by FNS regional office):