

STATE WAIVER REQUEST

1. **Waiver Serial Number (if applicable):** 2150021
2. **Type of request:** Extension
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:** Washington
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 Washington is requesting to exempt able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWDs) in 38 counties and 1 reservation 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 Washington seeks a waiver for a regional group of 38 contiguous counties based on the region's aggregate average unemployment rate for the 24-month period of July 2015 through June 2017. The average national unemployment rate for this period was 4.8 percent; 20 percent above this was 5.8 percent. The region's aggregate average unemployment rate for this period was 6.0 percent.

**Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data
July 2015 through June 2017**

Contiguous Counties	Unemployed Total	Labor Force Total
Adams County	14,016	209,635
Asotin County	11,539	239,223
Benton County	143,693	2,259,668
Chelan County	58,867	1,046,650
Clallam County	50,617	656,177
Clark County	317,344	5,275,720
Columbia County	2,689	41,504
Cowlitz County	77,620	1,072,295
Douglas County	32,840	493,311
Ferry County	6,417	60,540
Franklin County	70,372	954,031
Garfield County	1,278	22,009
Grant County	77,281	1,073,686
Grays Harbor County	55,214	654,940
Island County	45,596	784,471
Jefferson County	19,111	275,223
Kitsap County	155,427	2,821,641
Kittitas County	30,296	516,023
Klickitat County	15,962	232,294
Lewis County	60,060	767,616
Lincoln County	6,520	117,336
Mason County	42,967	562,996
Okanogan County	35,983	513,951
Pacific County	16,108	198,925
Pend Oreille County	9,995	112,599
Pierce County	590,059	9,707,198
San Juan County	8,741	189,030
Skagit County	90,454	1,391,384
Skamania County	8,537	121,564
Snohomish County	422,464	9,875,442
Spokane County	345,656	5,598,282
Stevens County	35,729	428,204
Thurston County	175,986	3,123,711
Wahkiakum County	2,686	31,065
Walla Walla County	37,987	689,069
Whatcom County	148,429	2,573,541

Whitman County	27,126	554,982
Yakima County	235,155	3,004,142
Combined Area Total	3,486,821	58,250,078
Combined Area Unemployment Rate	6.0%	
20% Above National Average Threshold	5.8%	

The State of Washington intends to seek a waiver for Muckleshoot Reservation based on having an average unemployment rate of 20 percent above the national average for a recent 24-month period. Per Washington State Administrative Policy No. 7.01, the Department must formally request a letter of support from the tribes for exclusion of tribal locations in the waiver. Support letters have not yet been received. We ask permission to submit an amendment to this waiver at the time of their arrival. The reservation unemployment rate was calculated by applying 2011-2015, 5-year American Community Survey (ACS) share ratios to county-level Bureau of Labor Statistics data for July 2015 through June 2017.

American Community Survey and Bureau of Labor Statistics Data July 2015 through June 2017			
Reservations	Unemployed	Labor Force	Unemployment Rate
King County (part); Washington (part); Muckleshoot Reservation and Off-Reservation Trust Land, WA	3,829	42,431	9.0%
Pierce County (part); Washington (part); Muckleshoot Reservation and Off-Reservation Trust Land, WA	0	46	0.0%
Muckleshoot Reservation	3,829	42,477	9.0%

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 affected portion (if applicable):

As of June 2016, the approximate number of ABAWD clients outside of the proposed waived area is 2.14% (12,252) of Washington's total adult SNAP recipient population (570,159).

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.

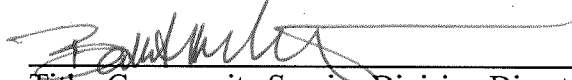
13. Proposed quality control review procedures:

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

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

Shavana Howard, Shavana.howard@dshs.wa.gov, 360-725-4338

15. Signature and title of requesting official:



Title: Community Service Division Director

Email for transmission of response: babette.roberts@dshs.wa.gov

16. Date of request: December 1, 2017

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

Corinna.Adams@dshs.wa.gov, 360-725-4640.

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