



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES
Community Services Division
Post Office Box 45440 Olympia WA 98504-5440

November 30, 2017

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 King County. Washington State's current ABAWD waiver is set to expire on December 31, 2017.

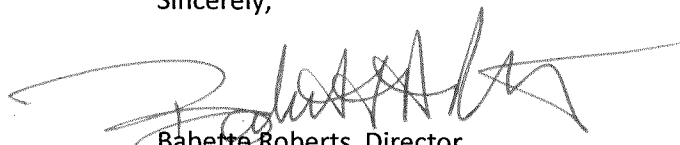
Under SNAP regulations, 7 CFR §273.24(f)(2), areas may qualify for an ABAWD time limit waiver if they have insufficient jobs. To support this claim, states may submit evidence that an area has a 24-month unemployment rate average that exceeds the national average by 20 percent for the same time period. *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 July 2015 through June 2017, a group of 38 counties in the state of Washington had an average unemployment rate of 6.0 percent. The U.S. national average plus 20 percent is 5.8 percent.

In addition to those counties, the Muckleshoot tribal reservation area is also eligible for a waiver based on the average unemployment rate of 9 percent. 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.

We request exemption for the entire State except King County, from the work requirements of 7 CFR §273.24 due to insufficient jobs within the past 24 month period. We are requesting that this waiver be granted effective January 1, 2018 through December 31, 2018.

Thank you for your consideration of this waiver request. If you have any questions please contact Shavana Howard at (360) 725-4338 or Shavana.Howard@dshs.wa.gov.

Sincerely,



Babette Roberts, Director,
Community Services Division

Enclosure

Cc:

Mr. Dennis Stewart
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