



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR BILL WALKER

**Department of
Health and Social Services**

DIVISION OF PUBLIC ASSISTANCE
Policy and Program Development

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July 10, 2018

Dennis Stewart
Regional Director
FNS/WRO/USDA
90 Seventh Street, Suite 10-100
San Francisco, CA 94103

Dear Mr. Stewart:

The State of Alaska is submitting the enclosed request for an extension to waiver 2150041 concerning ABAWD work requirements from SNAP time limits from January 1, 2019 through December 31, 2019.

Under SNAP regulations at 7 CFR 273.24(f)(2), areas may qualify for an ABAWD time limit waiver if they have insufficient jobs. Alaska is requesting a 1-year waiver due to having insufficient jobs is based on the State having an average unemployment rate greater than 20 percent above the national average for the 24-month period of June 2016 through May 2018.

For the time period of June 2016 through May 2018 Alaska has had an average unemployment rate of 7.1 percent. The national average for the same time period was 4.4 percent; 20 percent above that was 5.3 percent. Alaska is supplying evidence that our state has an average unemployment rate for a 24-month time period that is at least 20% above the national average.

The State is requesting this waiver extension to help manage our caseload and to better serve our clients.

If you have any questions, please contact Matthew Stangley at (907)465-5835 or via email at Matthew.Stangley@alaska.gov, or Reuben Lumbab at (907)465-3201 or via email at Reuben.Lumbab@alaska.gov.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Matthew Stangley", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Matthew Stangley
Chief of Policy and Program Development
Division of Public Assistance

STATE WAIVER REQUEST

1. **Waiver Serial Number (if applicable):** 2150041
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:** Alaska
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 Alaska is requesting a 1-year statewide waiver from SNAP time limits at 7 CFR 273.24.
9. **Justification for request:** This request to exempt residents residing in the entire State from the time limit in 7 CFR 273.24 due to having insufficient jobs is based on the State having an average unemployment rate greater than 20 percent above the national average for the 24-month period of June 2016 through May 2018. 7 CFR 273.24 (f)(2)(ii) states that, "To support a claim of lack of sufficient jobs, a State may submit evidence that an area (...) has a 24-month average unemployment rate 20 percent above the national average for the same 24-month period."

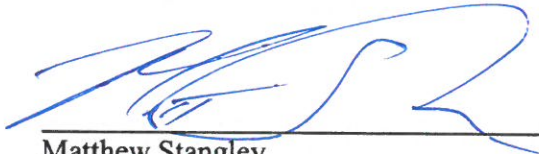
The State of Alaska seeks a statewide waiver based on the State having an average unemployment rate greater than 20 percent above the national average for the 24-month period of June 2016 through May 2018. Alaska's average unemployment rate for this 24-month period was 7.1 percent. The national average for this period was 4.4 percent; 20 percent above this was 5.3 percent.

Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data June 2016 through May 2018		
	Unemployed	Labor force
Alaska	620,724	8,706,021
Unemployment Rate	7.1%	
20% Above the National Average Unemployment Rate Threshold	5.3%	

10. **Anticipated impact on households and State agency operations:** This waiver will provide consistency for state operations and benefit SNAP households
11. **Caseload information, including percent, characteristics, and quality control error rate for affection portion (if applicable):** This waiver affects the entire state.
12. **Anticipated implementation date and time period for which waiver is needed:**
The State is requesting a one-year waiver, from January 1, 2019 through December 31, 2019.
13. **Proposed quality control review procedures:** There are no quality control procedures involved.
14. **State agency submitting waiver request and State contact person:**

Matthew Stangley
Chief of Policy & Program Development
Division of Public Assistance

15. **Signature and title of requesting official:**



Matthew Stangley
Chief of Policy & Program Development

16. **Date of request:** July 10, 2018

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

Matthew Stangley
Chief of Policy & Program Development
State of Alaska – Dept. of Health and Social Services – Division of Public Assistance
907-465-5835
matthew.stangley@alaska.gov

or

Reuben Lumbab
Public Assistance Analyst II
State of Alaska – Dept. of Health and Social Services – Division of Public Assistance
907-465-3201
reuben.lumbab@alaska.gov

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

ALASKA IS ELIGIBLE FOR A WAIVER ON THE BASIS OF
JUN 2016 - MAY 2018
UNEMPLOYMENT RATES

Step 1	Please see worksheet entitled "Step 1-4" for monthly labor force numbers
Step 2	Please see worksheet entitled "Step 1-4" for 24-month labor force totals
Step 3	Please see worksheet entitled "Step 1-4" for monthly unemployed numbers
Step 4	Please see worksheet entitled "Step 1-4" for 24-month unemployed totals

	from Step 2 JUN 2016 - MAY 2018	from Step 4 JUN 2016 - MAY 2018	Step 5 JUN 2016 - MAY 2018	Step 6 JUN 2016 - MAY 2018	Step 7 JUN 2016 - MAY 2018
	Total labor force	Total number of unemployed	Average Unemployment Rate (unrounded)	Average Unemployment Rate (4 decimal places)	Average Unemployment Rate (multiply by 100)
Alaska	8,706,021	620,724	0.071298	0.0712	7.12
National Unemploy	3,848,439	170,174	0.044219	0.0442	4.42
Threshold - 20% Above the National Average				0.0530	5.30
					7.1

Source: Local Area Unemployment Statistics, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Dept. of Labor
Underlying data are available at www.bls.gov/lau/, and are attached.

Labor Force Statistics from the Current Population Survey
Original Data Value

Series Id: LNUJ01000000, LNUJ03000000

Not Seasonally Adjusted

Series (Unadj) Civilian Labor Force Level, (Unadj) Unemployment Level

Labor Civilian labor force, Unemployed

Type of Number in thousands

Age: 16 years and over

Years: 2016 to 2018

<http://www.bls.gov/webapps/legacy/cpsatab1.htm>

Year	Month	Civilian labor force	Unemployment	Unemployment rate
Jan	2016	157,347	8,309	5.3
Feb	2016	158,279	8,219	5.2
Mar	2016	158,854	8,116	5.1
Apr	2016	158,488	7,413	4.7
May	2016	158,800	7,207	4.5
Jun	2016	160,135	8,144	5.1
Jul	2016	160,705	8,267	5.1
Aug	2016	159,800	7,996	5.0
Sep	2016	159,636	7,658	4.8
Oct	2016	159,783	7,447	4.7
Nov	2016	159,451	7,066	4.4
Dec	2016	158,968	7,170	4.5
Jan	2017	158,676	8,149	5.1
Feb	2017	159,482	7,887	4.9
Mar	2017	159,912	7,284	4.6
Apr	2017	159,817	6,555	4.1
May	2017	159,979	6,572	4.1
Jun	2017	161,337	7,250	4.5
Jul	2017	161,911	7,441	4.6
Aug	2017	160,863	7,287	4.5
Sep	2017	161,049	6,556	4.1
Oct	2017	160,465	6,242	3.9
Nov	2017	160,466	6,286	3.9
Dec	2017	159,880	6,278	3.9
Jan	2018	160,037	7,189	4.5
Feb	2018	161,494	7,091	4.4
Mar	2018	161,548	6,671	4.1
Apr	2018	161,280	5,932	3.7
May	2018	161,765	5,756	3.6

National 24-Month Unemployment Average

Start date	End date	Civilian labor force	Unemployment	Unemployment Rate	20% Above the National Average (Rounded)
Jan-16	Dec-17	3,834,083	176,799	4.6	5.5
Feb-16	Jan-18	3,836,773	175,679	4.6	5.5
Mar-16	Feb-18	3,839,988	174,551	4.5	5.4
Apr-16	Mar-18	3,842,682	173,106	4.5	5.4
May-16	Apr-18	3,845,474	171,625	4.5	5.4
Jun-16	May-18	3,848,439	170,174	4.4	5.3

Local Area Unemployment Statistics

Original Data Value

Series id: LAUST0200000000000003, LAUST0200000000000005, LAUST0200000000000006

Not Seasonally Adjusted

Area: Alaska

Area Type: Statewide

State/Region: Alaska

Years: 2015 to 2017

<http://www.bls.gov/iau/>

Year	Period	labor force	unemployment	unemployment rate
2016	Jan	357,976	26,535	7.4
2016	Feb	359,179	27,598	7.7
2016	Mar	359,519	26,766	7.4
2016	Apr	359,285	25,337	7.1
2016	May	364,239	24,934	6.8
2016	Jun	370,191	26,003	7.0
2016	Jul	373,897	23,752	6.4
2016	Aug	368,816	22,468	6.1
2016	Sep	363,365	23,321	6.4
2016	Oct	361,049	23,886	6.6
2016	Nov	360,165	25,123	7.0
2016	Dec	358,887	25,482	7.1
2017	Jan	357,885	27,889	7.8
2017	Feb	359,585	28,553	7.9
2017	Mar	359,544	27,664	7.7
2017	Apr	358,437	26,236	7.3
2017	May	363,941	25,680	7.1
2017	Jun	370,665	26,832	7.2
2017	Jul	373,884	24,848	6.6
2017	Aug	368,916	23,546	6.4
2017	Sep	363,815	24,193	6.6
2017	Oct	359,848	24,543	6.8
2017	Nov	359,192	25,753	7.2
2017	Dec	357,686	25,985	7.3
2018	Jan	357,667	28,945	8.1
2018	Feb	359,511	29,645	8.2
2018	Mar	360,043	28,340	7.9
2018	Apr	357,994	26,934	7.5
2018	May	361,038	25,103	7.0

24-Month Unemployment Average

Start date	End date	Civilian labor force	Unemployment	Unemployment rate (Rounded)	20% Above the National Average (Rounded)
Jan-16	Dec-17	8,709,966	612,927	7.0	5.5
Feb-16	Jan-18	8,709,657	615,337	7.1	5.5
Mar-16	Feb-18	8,709,989	617,384	7.1	5.4
Apr-16	Mar-18	8,710,513	618,958	7.1	5.4
May-16	Apr-18	8,709,222	620,555	7.1	5.4
Jun-16	May-18	8,706,021	620,724	7.1	5.3

Period	US	AK
Jan-16	5.3	7.4
Feb-16	5.2	7.7
Mar-16	5.1	7.4
Apr-16	4.7	7.1
May-16	4.5	6.8
Jun-16	5.1	7.0
Jul-16	5.1	6.4
Aug-16	5.0	6.1
Sep-16	4.8	6.4
Oct-16	4.7	6.6
Nov-16	4.4	7.0
Dec-16	4.5	7.1
Jan-17	5.1	7.8
Feb-17	4.9	7.9
Mar-17	4.6	7.7
Apr-17	4.1	7.3
May-17	4.1	7.1
Jun-17	4.5	7.2
Jul-17	4.6	6.6
Aug-17	4.5	6.4
Sep-17	4.1	6.6
Oct-17	3.9	6.8
Nov-17	3.9	7.2
Dec-17	3.9	7.3
Jan-18	4.5	8.1
Feb-18	4.4	8.2
Mar-18	4.1	7.9
Apr-18	3.7	7.5
May-18	3.6	7.0

