



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

September 18, 2018

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 King County. Washington State's current ABAWD waiver is set to expire on December 31, 2018.

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.

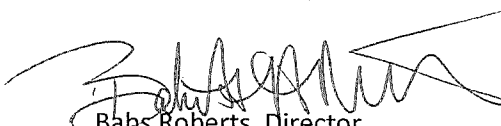
For the 24-month period of May 2016 through April 2018, a group of 38 counties in the state of Washington had a combined area unemployment rate of 5.5 percent. For this same time period, the U.S. national average plus 20 percent was 5.4 percent.

In addition to those counties, Muckleshoot tribal reservation areas are also eligible for a waiver based on having average unemployment rate of 10.2%. In order to formally ask for this tribal location to be included with the waiver, there must be a Letter of Support from the tribe per our state Administrative Policy No. 7.01. As this letter has not been received by the time of this request, we ask permission to submit an amendment to this waiver upon receipt of the letter.

We request exemption for the entire State, except for King County, from the work requirements of 7 CFR §273.24 due to insufficient employment in the remaining counties within the past 24 month period. We are requesting that this waiver be granted from January 1, 2019 through December 31, 2019.

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,


Babs Roberts, Director,
Community Services Division



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Community Services Division

Dennis Stewart
September 18, 2018
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Enclosure

Cc:

Shahdy Monemzadeh
Andrew Naja-Ries

Lori Pfingst
Shawn Hartline

Shavana Howard

STATE WAIVER REQUEST

1. **Waiver Serial Number (if applicable):** 2150022
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:** Western
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 May 2016 through April 2018. The average national unemployment rate for this period was 4.5 percent; 20 percent above this was 5.4 percent. The region's aggregate average unemployment rate for this period was 5.5 percent.

**Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data
May 2016 through April 2018**

Contiguous Counties	Unemployed Total	Labor Force Total
Adams County	12,681	212,956
Asotin County	10,825	244,386
Benton County	132,654	2,315,822
Chelan County	53,593	1,057,983
Clallam County	46,732	664,534
Clark County	291,063	5,404,785
Columbia County	2,485	42,087
Cowlitz County	70,162	1,095,871
Douglas County	30,124	499,586
Ferry County	6,760	60,686
Franklin County	64,419	973,235
Garfield County	1,223	21,903
Grant County	70,274	1,079,959
Grays Harbor County	49,338	666,022
Island County	44,132	811,509
Jefferson County	18,385	284,639
Kitsap County	147,854	2,884,672
Kittitas County	28,969	527,941
Klickitat County	14,568	237,891
Lewis County	54,762	787,044
Lincoln County	6,043	118,500
Mason County	39,111	569,579
Okanogan County	33,899	504,488
Pacific County	14,708	200,606
Pend Oreille County	8,871	112,729
Pierce County	551,478	9,934,600
San Juan County	8,056	194,969
Skagit County	81,460	1,413,695
Skamania County	7,873	124,023
Snohomish County	417,415	10,091,387
Spokane County	320,411	5,710,377
Stevens County	32,977	434,693
Thurston County	164,956	3,202,877
Wahkiakum County	2,328	31,174
Walla Walla County	35,163	700,042
Whatcom County	136,720	2,620,650

Whitman County	25,877	559,462
Yakima County	210,299	3,045,004
Combined Area Total	3,248,648	59,442,366
Combined Area Unemployment Rate	5.5%	
20% Above National Average Threshold	5.4%	

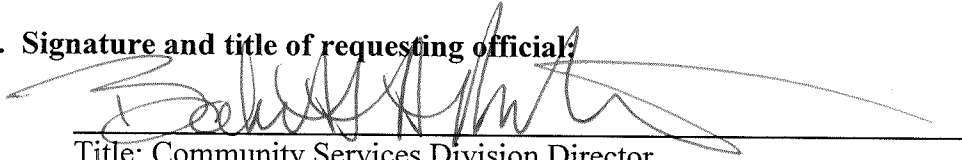
The State of Washington seeks a waiver for Muckleshoot Reservation based on having an average unemployment rate 20 percent above the national average for a recent 24-month period. The reservation unemployment rate was calculated by applying 2012-2016 5-year American Community Survey (ACS) share ratios to county-level Bureau of Labor Statistics data for May 2016 through April 2018.

American Community Survey and Bureau of Labor Statistics Data May 2016 through April 2018			
Reservations	Unemployed	Labor Force	Unemployment Rate
King County (part); Washington (part); Muckleshoot Reservation and Off-Reservation Trust Land, WA	4,312	42,724	10.1%
Pierce County (part); Washington (part); Muckleshoot Reservation and Off-Reservation Trust Land, WA	69	313	22%
Muckleshoot Reservation	4,381	43,037	10.2%

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):**
The caseload for these areas, as of 6/30/2018, represent 3.04% 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, 2019 through December 31, 2019.
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 Services Division Director

Email for transmission of response: Babette.Roberts@dshs.wa.gov

16. Date of request: 8/30/2018

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

Glenn Haynes

Program Manager

Glenn.haynes@dshs.wa.gov

360-725-4556

Troy Burgess

Program Consultant

Troy.burgess@dshs.dshs.wa.gov

360-725-4651

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