



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

January 15, 2019

Rebecca Hobbs, Acting Regional Program 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 Mrs. Hobbs,

Washington State is requesting an amendment to the waiver submitted on September 24, 2018, from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) requirements for Able Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWD) under 7CFR 273.24 for all counties except King County with the exception of the Muckleshoot Tribe. 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 these claims, 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 period.

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 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. Washington State has received this letter and has included it for your review.

We request exemption for the entire State, except for King County, with the exception of the Muckleshoot Tribe, from the work requirements of 7 CFR 273.24 due to insufficient employment in the remaining counties within the past 24 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

Enclosure

Cc: Shahdy Monemzadeh
Shawn Hartline

Debbie Davis
Shavana Howard

Brian Solomon
Alexis Marx