



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

**Department of
Health and Social Services**

DIVISION OF PUBLIC ASSISTANCE
Policy & Program Development
P.O. Box 110640
Juneau, Alaska 99811-0640
Main: 907-465-3382
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January 27, 2020

Charles Tobin
Regional Director
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
550 Kearny Street, Room 400
San Francisco, CA 94108

Dear Mr. Tobin:

The State of Alaska is submitting the enclosed request for modification and extension of waiver 2150041 regarding the time limit for able-bodied adults.

Under SNAP regulations at 7 CFR 273.24, areas may qualify for a time limit waiver if they do not have a sufficient number of jobs to provide employment for the individuals. The State of Alaska is requesting to modify and extend our existing waiver effective April 1, 2020.

Alaska is supplying evidence that many borough and census areas in our state had an average unemployment rate 20 percent above the national rate but not less than 6 percent in the 24 month period from September 2017 through August 2019.

This ABAWD waiver request has the support of Mike Dunleavy, Governor for the State of Alaska.

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 black ink, appearing to read "M. Stangley", with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

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

cc: Shawnda O'Brien, Director
Adam Crum, Commissioner

STATE WAIVER REQUEST

1. **Waiver Serial Number (if applicable):** 2150041
2. **Type of request:** Modification and 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:** Under 7 CFR 273.24(b) individuals are not eligible to participate in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) as a member of any household if, during the preceding 36-month period, the individual received SNAP benefits for not less than 3 months (consecutive or otherwise), during which the individual did not work 20 hours or more per week, averaged monthly; participate in and comply with the requirements of a work program for 20 hours or more per week; or participate in and comply with requirements of a program under Section 20 or a comparable program established by the State.

Under 7 CFR 273.24(f), upon the request of a State agency, the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) may waive the applicability of the above provision for any group of individuals in the State if the FNS 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 to modify and extend our existing waiver from SNAP time limits at 7 CFR 273.24 effective April 1, 2020 to exempt all borough and census areas that do not have a sufficient number of jobs to provide employment for the individuals.
9. **Justification for request:** The State of Alaska is requesting to waive the time limit in 7 CFR 273.24 for borough and census areas that have an average unemployment rate 20 percent above the national rate but not less than 6 percent in the 24 month period from September 2017 through August 2019.

7 CFR 273.24 (f)(2)(i) states that, "To support a claim of lack of sufficient jobs, a State may submit evidence that an area: is designated as a Labor Surplus Area (LSA) by the Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration (ETA); is determined by the Department of Labor's Unemployment Insurance Service as qualifying for extended unemployment benefits; has a low and declining employment-to-population ratio; has a lack of jobs in declining occupations or

industries; is described in an academic study or other publications as an area where there are lack of jobs; has a 24-month average unemployment rate 20 percent above the national average for the same 24-month period. This 24-month period may not be any earlier than the same 24-month period the ETA uses to designate LSAs for the current fiscal year.”

10. **Anticipated impact on households and State agency operations:** The waiver will ease the hardship for low-income Alaskans caused by limiting food assistance when there are not enough jobs available in their area for everyone searching for work.
11. **Caseload information, including percent, characteristics, and quality control error rate for affection portion (if applicable):**
12. **Anticipated implementation date and time period for which waiver is needed:**
The State is requesting that this revised waiver be approved affective April 1, 2020 through March 31, 2021.
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:** January 27, 2020
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):