



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR MICHAEL J. DUNLEAVY

**Department of
Health and Social Services**

DIVISION OF PUBLIC ASSISTANCE
Policy and Program Development

P.O. Box 110640
Juneau, Alaska 99811-0640
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August 12, 2019

Maribelle Balbes
Acting Regional Director
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
550 Kearny Street, Room 400
San Francisco, CA 94108

Dear Ms. Balbes:

The State of Alaska is submitting the enclosed request for modification and extension of waiver 2150041 concerning ABAWD time limits.

Under SNAP regulations at 7 CFR 273.24, areas may qualify for an ABAWD time limit waiver if they have insufficient jobs. The State of Alaska is requesting to modify our existing statewide waiver from SNAP time limits at 7 CFR 273.24 effective October 1, 2019 due to the fact that Alaska's average unemployment rate was greater than 20 percent above the national average for the 24-month period of June 2017 through May 2019. We also request that this modified waiver be extended through September 30, 2020.

Alaska is supplying evidence that the State had an average unemployment rate greater than 20 percent above the national average for the 24-month period of June 2017 through May 2019. Alaska only seeks to exempt the borough and census areas that have an average unemployment rate of over 10 percent to help Alaska transition towards no ABAWD time limit exemptions based on high unemployment rates as of October 1, 2020.

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,

Christina Davis for Matt Stangley

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

cc: Shawnda O'Brien, Director

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 a 1-year waiver from the SNAP time limits as 7 CFR 273.24. We also request that this modified waiver be extended through September 30, 2020.
9. **Justification for request:** The State of Alaska is requesting to modify our existing statewide waiver from SNAP time limits as 7 CFR 273.24 effective October 1, 2019 due to the fact that Alaska's average unemployment rate was greater than 20 percent above the national average for the 24-month period of June 2017 through May 2019.

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."

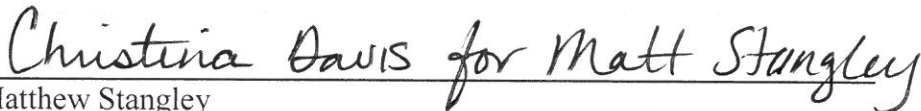
Alaska only seeks to exempt the borough and census areas that have an average unemployment rate of over 10 percent. Alaska's average unemployment rate for this

24-month period was 6.67 percent. The national average for this period was 3.97 percent; 20 percent above this was 4.76 percent.

10. **Anticipated impact on households and State agency operations:** The waiver will help Alaska transition towards no ABAWD time limit exemptions based on high unemployment rates as of October 1, 2020.
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 effective October 1, 2019 through September 30, 2020.
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:** August 12, 2019
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):

Unemployment Rates, Seasonally Adjusted
24 month period: June 2017 – May 2019

Month / Year	Alaska Unemployment Rate	National Unemployment Rate	Percentage Above National Rate
June 2017	7.0	4.4	37.14%
July 2017	7.0	4.4	37.14%
August 2017	7.0	4.4	37.14%
September 2017	7.0	4.2	40.00%
October 2017	6.9	4.1	40.57%
November 2017	6.9	4.2	39.13%
December 2017	6.8	4.1	39.70%
January 2018	6.8	4.1	39.70%
February 2018	6.7	4.1	38.80%
March 2018	6.7	4.0	40.29%
April 2018	6.7	3.9	41.79%
May 2018	6.6	3.8	42.42%
June 2018	6.6	4.0	39.39%
July 2018	6.6	3.9	40.90%
August 2018	6.5	3.8	41.53%
September 2018	6.5	3.7	43.07%
October 2018	6.5	3.8	41.53%
November 2018	6.5	3.7	43.07%
December 2018	6.5	3.9	40.00%
January 2019	6.5	4.0	38.46%
February 2019	6.5	3.8	41.53%
March 2019	6.5	3.8	41.53%
April 2019	6.5	3.6	44.61%
May 2019	6.4	3.6	43.75%
Average	6.67%	3.97%	

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, United States Department of Labor
Underlying data is available at www.bls.gov/lau/

Threshold – 20% above the National Average

U.S., Alaska, and Borough and Census Areas

Unemployment Rates

Area	3/19 Rate	2/19 Rate	1/19 Rate
United States	3.9%	4.1	4.4
Alaska	7.2%	7.5	7.4
Aleutians East Borough	2.2%	2.0	4.2
Aleutians West Census Area	2.9%	2.7	3.5
Anchorage, Municipality of	5.7%	5.8	5.7
Bethel Census Area	13.8%	14.7	13.5
Bristol Bay Borough	15.0%	17.9	16.3
Denali Borough	18.4%	20.0	21.2
Dillingham Census Area	9.9%	9.8	9.5
Fairbanks North Star Borough	6.4%	6.7	6.7
Haines Borough	14.4%	15.3	15.5
Hoonah-Angoon Census Area	19.7%	21.2	20.8
Juneau, City and Borough of	5.5%	5.7	5.6
Kenai Peninsula Borough	8.6%	9.1	9.0
Ketchikan Gateway Borough	7.9%	8.4	8.3
Kodiak Island Borough	5.2%	5.2	9.4
Kusilvak Census Area	21.3%	22.3	20.6
Lake and Peninsula Borough	13.9%	15.9	13.1
Matanuska-Susitna Borough	8.3%	8.5	8.4
Nome Census Area	12.0%	12.8	12.1
North Slope Borough	6.8%	6.7	6.5
Northwest Arctic Borough	14.6%	15.3	13.7
Petersburg Borough	12.3%	11.7	14.2
Prince of Wales-Hyder Census Area	14.1%	15.9	13.6
Sitka, City and Borough of	4.8%	5.1	5.6
Skagway, Municipality of	18.5%	23.6	22.2
Southeast Fairbanks Census Area	10.4%	11.8	11.2
Valdez-Cordova Census Area	9.9%	11.4	11.3
Wrangell, City and Borough of	9.2%	10.8	10.5
Yakutat, City and Borough of	11.5%	12.5	10.7
Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area	17.4%	18.6	17.2

Yellow = ABAWD exempt census area due to average three month unemployment rate of over 10%