



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

**Department of
Health and Social Services**

DIVISION OF PUBLIC ASSISTANCE
Policy and Program Development

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Juneau, Alaska 99811-0640
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June 27, 2019

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

Dear Ms. Hobbs:

The State of Alaska is submitting the enclosed request for modification and extension of waiver 2150041 concerning ABAWD work requirements from SNAP 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 to exempt all borough and census areas that have had an average unemployment rate of over 10 percent in the most recent three month period. We also request that this modified waiver be extended through September 30, 2020.

Alaska is supplying evidence that many census and boroughs in our state had an average unemployment rate of over 10 percent for the time period of January 2019 through March 2019. The State is requesting this waiver modification and 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 "M. Stangley", with a large, 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:** 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.

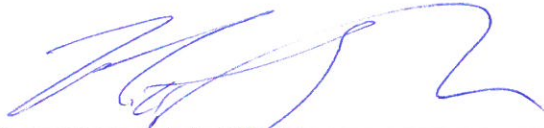
8. **Description of alternative procedures:** The State of Alaska is requesting to modify our existing statewide waiver from SNAP time limits at 7 CFR 273.24 effective October 1, 2019 to exempt all borough and census areas that have had an average unemployment rate of over 10 percent in the most recent three month period. We also request that this modified waiver be extended through September 30, 2020.
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 of over 10 percent for the recent three month period of January 2019 – March 2019.

7 CFR 273.24 (f)(2)(i) states that, “To support a claim of unemployment over 10 percent, a State agency may submit evidence that an area has a recent 12 month average unemployment rate over 10 percent; a recent three month average unemployment rate over 10 percent; or an historical seasonal unemployment rate over 10 percent.”

- 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 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:** June 27, 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
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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%