



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

December 30, 2020

Charles Tobin, 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. Tobin:

Washington state requests a waiver from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) requirements for Able Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWD) under 7 CFR §273.24 for all state counties, with the exception of King County, and the Muckleshoot tribal reservation. If approved, this waiver would replicate Washington's current ABAWD waiver 2150021 set to expire on December 31, 2020. We are requesting waiver approval effective January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021.

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 twenty percent for the same time period. See, 7 CFR §273.24(f)(3)(iii) and, 7 CFR §273.24(f)(6) - States may define areas to be waived.

For the 24-month period of November 2018 through October 2020, the average national unemployment rate for this period was 5.6 percent. Twenty percent above the average national unemployment rate is 6.7 percent. The group of 38 counties included in Washington's waiver request have an aggregate average unemployment rate of 6.7 percent for this time period.

Washington is also requesting a waiver for the Muckleshoot tribal reservation based on their average unemployment rate of 10.8 percent. Washington State Administrative Policy No. 7.01, requires a letter of support from the tribe prior to submitting a formal request for the waiver. The agency received this letter of support. The letter of support is included in the waiver submission.

Thank you for your consideration of this waiver request. If you have any questions please contact Spring Benson at (360) 522-0179, Spring.Benson@dshs.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

Babette Roberts, Director
Community Services Division

Enclosure

Cc:

Brian Solomon
Libby Albert

Pandora Lewis
Shawn Hartline

Alexis Marx
Spring Benson

Ezra Paskus
Corinna Adams