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GOVERNMENT OF GUAM

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES
DIPATTAMENTON SALUT PUPBLEKO YAN SETBISION SUSIAT



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DEC 06 2021

Mr. Charles Tobin
Regional Program Director
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
Western Region
90 Seventh St. #10-1007094
San Francisco, CA 94108

Dear Mr. Tobin:

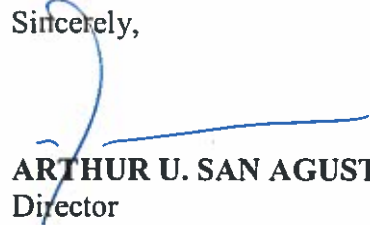
Submitted for your review and approval is Guam Department of Public Health and Social Services' (DPHSS) request to renew the Able-Bodied Adults without Dependents (ABAWDs) waiver, pursuant to the provisions of 7 CFR 273.24 exempting ABAWDs throughout the Territory of Guam from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) time limit.

Guam's economy is highly dependent on tourism. April 2020 recorded at -98.7% as the lowest visitor arrival count in Guam's tourism history. Guam's economy would have been devastated without the federal pandemic aid.

Guam's unemployment rate in June 2021 is 11.4%, per Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS, copy attached). This unemployment rate is projected to continue, or even increase, in the coming months as the island, every day, witness a numerous surge of positive COVID-19 cases. There are no sufficient available jobs on Guam. COVID-19 tests and vaccination centers are still operating in the various parts of the island. Currently, there is no indication that the Governor will lift the island's public health emergency in the nearest foreseeable future.

Should you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Ms. Ma. Theresa L. Arcangel, Chief, Division of Public Welfare at (671) 300-8879 or email at theresa.arcangel@dphss.guam.gov.

Sincerely,


ARTHUR U. SAN AGUSTIN, MHR
Director

Enclosures

STATE WAIVER REQUEST

1. **Waiver Serial Number (if applicable):**
2. **Type of request:** Renewal
3. **Statutory citation:** Section 6(o) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008, as amended
4. **Regulatory citation:** 7 CFR 273.24 (f)(1)(i)(ii) & (3)

5. **State:** Territory of Guam
6. **Region:** Western
7. **Regulatory requirements:** Section 6(o) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008, as amended, provides that no able-bodied adult without dependents (ABAWD) shall be eligible to participate in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) as a member of any household if the individual received program benefits for more than 3 months during any 3-year period in which the individual was subject to, but did not comply with the ABAWD work requirement. Section 6(o) also provides that, upon the request of the State agency, the Secretary may waive the applicability of the 3-month ABAWD time limit for any group of individuals in the State, if the Secretary 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 Territory of Guam is requesting a territory-wide waiver from SNAP time limits at 7 CFR 273.24(f)(1)(i)(ii) & (3).
9. **Justification for request:** Under SNAP regulations at 7 CFR 273.24(f)(1)(i)(ii) & 3, Guam may request FNS approval to temporarily waive the time limit for a group of individuals (ABAWDs) if Guam has an unemployment rate of over 10% and does not have a sufficient number of jobs to provide employment for the individuals. Guam's unemployment rate in June 2021 is 11.4% as evidenced by the October 18, 2021 report from the Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS, copy attached). The 11.4% unemployment rate was attributed mainly by the negative effects of COVID-19 pandemic which started in March 2020 and continuously up to the present.

The Territory of Guam's Department of Public Health & Social Services (DPHSS) is requesting the renewal of the island-wide waiver to exempt its ABAWD population from the SNAP three-month time limit under 7 CFR 273.24(f)(1)(i)(ii) & 3. The initial ABAWD waiver granted to DPHSS will end on February 28, 2022. The Bureau of Economic Security (BES) has projected that this 11.4% unemployment rate will continue and, may even increase, in the coming months due to lack of available jobs brought about by COVID-19. Guam is still in public health emergency (PHE) and as

of this writing, there is no indication that PHE will be lifted by the Governor. Every day, the island is witnessing a surge of numerous positive cases of COVID-19. COVID-19 tests and vaccination centers are still up in the various parts of the island. Notable establishments such as restaurants, Duty Free Shoppers (only partially opened) and other places frequented by tourists are still closed. Tourists from South Korea, Japan, Taiwan, the Philippines and other parts of the mainland and Asia are nowhere to be found. The island's economy mainly depends in the tourism business. Without tourists, mean there are no sufficient available jobs in the island.

10. Anticipated impact on households and State agency operations: The renewal of the waiver will provide consistency for state operations.

11. Caseload information, including percent, characteristics, and quality control error rate for affection portion (if applicable): The renewal of the waiver applies to all ABAWDs in Guam and therefore, it affects the entire territory.

12. Anticipated implementation date and time period for which waiver is needed: The territory is requesting that the ABAWD waiver be renewed from March 1, 2022 through February 28, 2024.

13. Proposed quality control review procedures: There are no quality control procedures involved.

14. State agency submitting waiver request and State contact person:

Department of Public Health and Social Services - Guam
Ma. Theresa L. Arcangel
theresa.arcangel@dphss.guam.gov
(671) 300-8879

15. Signature and title of requesting official:



ARTHUR U. SAN AGUSTIN, MHR
Title: Director
arthur.sanagustin@dphss.guam.gov

16. Date of request: February 26, 2020

17. State agency staff contact (name/email/telephone):

Ma. Theresa L. Arcangel
theresa.arcangel@dphss.guam.gov
(671) 300-8879

18. Regional office contact person (to be completed by FNS regional office):

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Employment Indicators

Welcome to the Guam Bureau of Labor Statistics

The **June 2021 preliminary statistics** show the total number of jobs increased by 260 in the latest quarter and are up 40 over the prior June. Private sector employment was up by 910 in the latest quarter and increased 180 over the year.

The **Unemployment Rate in Guam for June 2021** was 11.4 percent, a decrease of 5.1 percentage points

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decrease of 5.9 percentage points from June 2020, but up 5.3 percentage points from the December 2019 figure pre-pandemic.

Employment	Jun 2020	Sep 2020	Dec 2020	Mar 2021	Jun 2021	Percent Change (One Year)
<i>Private Sector</i>	45,680	43,390	44,150	44,950	45,860	0.4%
<i>Federal Government</i>	3,870	3,810	3,890	3,920	3,940	1.8%
<i>Government of Guam</i>	11,240	11,730	11,910	11,750	11,080	-1.4%
Total Employment	60,840	59,000	59,950	60,620	60,880	0.1%

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Weekly Earnings	Jun 2020	Sep 2020	Dec 2020	Mar 2021	Jun 2021	Percent Change (One Year)
Private Sector Non-supervisory	\$527.66	\$540.82	\$546.85	\$554.28	\$551.77	-4.6%
GovGuam- All Branches	\$1,125.07	\$1,127.12	\$1,134.56	\$1,119.47	\$1,098.13	-2.4%

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Unemployment Rate	Jun 2020	Sep 2020	Dec 2020	Mar 2021	Jun 2021	Change (From Jun 2020)	Links – Federal Statistics
	17.3%	17.9%	19.4%	16.5%	11.4%	-5.9	U.S. Census Bureau U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics U.S. Department of Commerce – Bureau of Economic Analysis

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