



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

Department of Health

DIVISION OF PUBLIC ASSISTANCE
Policy & Program Development
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September 14, 2023

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

Dear Mr. Tobin:

The State of Alaska is submitting the enclosed request to modify and extend waiver 2150041 regarding the ABAWD work requirements and time limit. We are requesting this waiver be approved for a one-year period from November 1, 2023 through October 31, 2024.

Under SNAP regulations at 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 an average unemployment rate for a 24-month time period that is at least 20 percent above the national average for the same 24-month period.

Alaska is supplying evidence that many borough and census areas in our state qualify for a time limit waiver based on their average unemployment rates for the 24-month period of February 2021 through January 2023.

The State is requesting this waiver to help manage our caseload and to better serve our clients.

If you have any questions, please contact Christina Davis at christina.davis@alaska.gov or Reuben Lumbab at reuben.Lumbab@alaska.gov.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Christina Davis".

Christina Davis
Chief of Policy & Program Development
Division of Public Assistance

STATE WAIVER REQUEST

1. Waiver Serial Number (if applicable):

2150041

2. Type of request:

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:

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 State of Alaska is requesting to exempt able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWDs) in 27 of 30 boroughs and census areas from SNAP time limits at 7 CFR 273.24.

9. Justification for request:

Under SNAP regulations at 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 an average unemployment rate for a 24-month time period that is at least 20 percent above the national average for the same 24-month period. 7 CFR 273.24(f)(6) provides that States may define areas to be waived.

The State of Alaska seeks a waiver for contiguous boroughs and census areas based on the combined average unemployment rate for the areas during the 24-month period of February 2021 through January 2023. The areas being requested for

waiver include 27 boroughs and census areas listed in the table below. The national average unemployment rate for this 24-month period was 4.4 percent; 20 percent above this is 5.2 percent. This is based on the national numbers of unemployed divided by the national labor force numbers obtained from <http://www.bls.gov/lau>.

Borough or Census Area	Unemployed	Labor Force	Unemployment Rate
Aleutians West Census Area, AK	2,771	83,596	3.3%
Anchorage Borough, AK	161,427	3,620,315	4.5%
Bethel Census Area, AK	17,579	162,454	10.8%
Bristol Bay Borough, AK	503	10,392	4.8%
Copper River Census Area, AK	2,132	31,956	6.7%
Denali Borough, AK	1,756	21,705	8.1%
Dillingham Census Area, AK	2,750	40,123	6.9%
Fairbanks North Star Borough, AK	47,120	1,086,605	4.3%
Haines Borough, AK	2,174	25,013	8.7%
Hoonah-Angoon Census Area, AK	2,102	28,852	7.3%
Juneau Borough/city, AK	15,049	410,734	3.7%
Kenai Peninsula Borough, AK	38,608	672,893	5.7%
Ketchikan Gateway Borough, AK	8,616	160,185	5.4%
Kodiak Island Borough, AK	7,671	143,494	5.3%
Kusilvak Census Area, AK	8,864	55,308	16.0%
Lake and Peninsula Borough, AK	1,111	15,496	7.2%
Matanuska-Susitna Borough, AK	67,089	1,193,831	5.6%
Nome Census Area, AK	8,050	98,161	8.2%
North Slope Borough, AK	4,019	70,730	5.7%
Northwest Arctic Borough, AK	6,905	67,927	10.2%
Petersburg Census Area, AK	2,314	36,495	6.3%
Prince of Wales-Hyder Census Area, AK	4,467	65,716	6.8%
Skagway Municipality, AK	1,599	16,614	9.6%
Southeast Fairbanks Census Area, AK	4,543	77,714	5.8%
Wrangell Borough/city, AK	1,354	21,839	6.2%
Yakutat Borough/city, AK	450	7,511	6.0%
Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area, AK	5,762	57,504	10.0%
Combined Average Unemployment Rate	5.2%		

The areas that will not be exempt from ABAWD time limits are Aleutians East Borough, Chugach Census Area, and Sitka Borough.

10. Anticipated impact on households and State agency operations:

This waiver will provide consistency for households and State agency operations in areas where unemployment remains higher than the national average.

11. Caseload information, including percent, characteristics, and quality control error rate for affection portion (if applicable):

The number of ABAWD required individuals residing in the entire state of Alaska, beginning November 1, 2023 is 8,611. The number of ABAWD required individuals

residing in the non-exempt areas of Alaska for FFY24 is 88. There are no quality control procedures involved.

12. Anticipated implementation date and time period for which waiver is needed:

The State is requesting a one-year waiver, from November 1, 2023 through October 31, 2024.

13. Proposed quality control review procedures:

There are no special quality control procedures needed in conjunction with this waiver.

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

Christina Davis
Acting Chief of Policy & Program Development
Division of Public Assistance

15. Signature and title of requesting official:



Christina Davis
Chief of Policy & Program Development

16. Date of request: September 14, 2023

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

Reuben Lumbab
Public Assistance Analyst II
State of Alaska – Department of Health – Division of Public Assistance
(907)500-2423
reuben.lumbab@alaska.gov

or

Christina Davis
Chief of Policy & Program Development
State of Alaska – Department of Health – Division of Public Assistance
(907)500-4746
christina.davis@alaska.gov

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