



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

Department of Health

DIVISION OF PUBLIC ASSISTANCE
Policy & Program Development
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July 20, 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 January 2021 through December 2022.

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,

Christina Davis

Christina Davis
Acting 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 22 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 their average unemployment rates for the 24-month period of January 2021 through December 2022. The areas being requested for waiver include 22 boroughs

and census areas. The national unemployment rate is 4.49% for the 24-month period of January 2021 through December 2022. This is based on the national numbers of unemployed divided by the national labor force numbers obtained from <http://www.bls.gov/lau>. The national average unemployment rate for this 24-month period was 4.49 percent; 20 percent above this is 5.4 percent.

January 2021-December 2022				
Borough or Census Area	Unemployed	Labor Force	Unemployment Rate	Status
Aleutians East Borough, AK	1,298	58,520	2.2%	NOT EXEMPT
Aleutians West Census Area, AK	2,903	83,952	3.5%	NOT EXEMPT
Anchorage Borough, AK	166,554	3,615,534	4.6%	NOT EXEMPT
Bethel Census Area, AK	28,217	176,127	11%	EXEMPT
Bristol Bay Borough, AK	511	10,404	4.9%	NOT EXEMPT
Chugach Census Area, AK	2,109	78,786	2.7%	NOT EXEMPT
Copper River Census Area, AK	2,049	31,808	6.4%	EXEMPT
Denali Borough, AK	1,776	21,701	8.2%	EXEMPT
Dillingham Census Area, AK	2,796	40,226	7%	EXEMPT
Fairbanks North Star Borough, AK	47,941	1,085,426	4.4%	NOT EXEMPT
Haines Borough, AK	2,228	25,067	8.9%	EXEMPT
Hoonah-Angoon Census Area, AK	2,120	28,831	7.4%	EXEMPT
Juneau Borough/city, AK	15,479	410,249	3.8%	NOT EXEMPT
Kenai Peninsula Borough, AK	39,605	671,590	5.9%	EXEMPT
Ketchikan Gateway Borough, AK	8,898	160,248	5.6%	EXEMPT
Kodiak Island Borough, AK	7,843	143,484	5.5%	EXEMPT
Kusilvak Census Area, AK	9,029	55,418	16.3%	EXEMPT
Lake and Peninsula Borough, AK	1,132	15,508	7.3%	EXEMPT
Matanuska-Susitna Borough, AK	68,369	1,192,086	5.7%	EXEMPT
Nome Census Area, AK	8,122	98,112	8.3%	EXEMPT
North Slope Borough, AK	4,547	70,489	6.5%	EXEMPT
Northwest Arctic Borough, AK	6,948	67,842	10.2%	EXEMPT
Petersburg Census Area, AK	2,364	36,637	6.5%	EXEMPT
Prince of Wales-Hyder Census Area, AK	4,508	65,739	6.9%	EXEMPT
Sitka Borough/city, AK	3,963	107,831	3.7%	NOT EXEMPT
Skagway Municipality, AK	1,641	16,634	9.9%	EXEMPT
Southeast Fairbanks Census Area, AK	4,594	77,657	5.9%	EXEMPT
Wrangell Borough/city, AK	1,389	21,926	6.3%	EXEMPT
Yakutat Borough/city, AK	453	7,469	7.4%	EXEMPT
Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area, AK	5,817	57,515	10.1%	EXEMPT
20% Above National Average Threshold	5.4%			

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 non-exempt areas of Alaska for FFY23 is 10,780. The number of ABAWD required individuals residing in the non-exempt areas of Alaska for FFY24 is 4,439. 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
Acting Chief of Policy & Program Development

16. Date of request: July 20, 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
Acting 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):