



United States Department of Agriculture

OCT 27 2015

Food and
Nutrition
Service

Park Office
Center

3101 Park
Center Drive
Alexandria
VA 22302

Ms. Monica Mitchell
Chief of Policy and Program Development
Division of Public Assistance
Alaska Department of Health and Social Services
P.O. Box 110640
Juneau, Alaska 99811-0640

Re: SNAP – Alaska Request to Waive Able-Bodied Adults without Dependents Time Limit – Extension and Modification – Approval

Dear Ms. Mitchell:

This is in response to the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services' request to extend and modify waiver number 2150041, which would allow Alaska to exempt able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWD) in a total of 183 areas from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) time limit at 7 CFR 273.24 for calendar year 2016.

The Alaska State agency has supported its request to waive the time limit in 155 Alaska Native Village Statistical Areas based upon each of the areas having an average unemployment rate 20 percent above the national average for a recent 24-month period. In addition, the State agency has supported waiving the time limit in 28 contiguous boroughs and census areas based upon the combined area having an aggregate average unemployment rate 20 percent above the national average for a recent 24-month period.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics and American Community Survey data provided by the State supports waiver approval for the requested areas. Therefore, the Food and Nutrition service is approving the State agency's request to waive the ABAWD time limit in all 183 requested areas for 12 months, effective January 1, 2016, through December 31, 2016. The attached response lists all 183 areas, details the supporting evidence used, and provides the terms and conditions of the waiver approval. If you have any questions, please contact Dawn Baker at Dawn.Baker@fns.usda.gov.

Sincerely,

Sasha Gersten-Paal
Chief
Certification Policy Branch
Program Development Division

Attachment

WAIVER RESPONSE

1. **Waiver serial number:** 2150041
2. **Type of request:** Extension and modification
3. **Regulatory citation:** 7 CFR 273.24
4. **State:** Alaska
5. **Region:** Western
6. **Regulatory requirement:** Federal regulations at 7 CFR 273.24 provide 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. Regulations at 7 CFR 273.24(a) provide that fulfilling the work requirement means: working 20 hours or more per week, averaged monthly; participating in and complying with the requirements of a work program at least 20 hours per week; any combination of working and participating in a work program for a total of 20 hours per week; or participating and complying with a workfare program.

Regulations at 7 CFR 273.24(f) also provide that, upon the request of a State agency, the Secretary may waive the applicability of the above provision 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.

7. **Description of proposed alternative procedures:** The Alaska Department of Health and Social Services' has requested to waive the ABAWD time limit at 7 CFR 273.24 in a total of 183 areas from January 1, 2016, through December 31, 2016.

The Alaska State agency has supported its request to waive the time limit in 155 Alaska Native Village Statistical Areas based upon each of the areas having an average unemployment rate 20 percent above the national average for the recent 24-month period of April 2013 through March 2015. During this 24-month period the national average unemployment rate was 6.5 percent; 20 percent above this is 7.8 percent. As detailed in the following table, all 155 areas had an average unemployment rate 20 percent above the national average for the selected time period.

Bureau of Labor Statistics / Census Bureau Data April 2013 through March 2015*			
155 Native Village Statistical Areas	Labor Force Totals	Unemployed Totals	Unemployment Rate
Annette Island Reserve	17,878	2,558	14.3%
Akhiok	896	293	32.7%
Akiachak	5,785	1,408	24.3%
Akiak	4,077	1,143	28.0%
Alakanuk	5,010	932	18.6%
Aleknagik	2,000	519	25.9%
Algaaciq	4,565	790	17.3%
Allakaket	1,543	566	36.7%
Ambler	2,251	644	28.6%
Anaktuvuk Pass	2,096	189	9.0%
Andreafsky	1,196	284	23.7%
Angoon	6,021	1,232	20.5%
Aniak	5,771	612	10.6%
Anvik	1,005	105	10.4%
Arctic Village	1,235	335	27.1%
Atmautluak	2,609	530	20.3%
Barrow	39,048	3,656	9.4%
Beaver	1,492	335	22.5%
Bethel	78,862	6,876	8.7%
Birch Creek	63	63	100.0%
Brevig Mission	3,775	1,094	29.0%
Buckland	4,071	932	22.9%
Cantwell	2,463	803	32.6%
Chalkyitsik	521	84	16.1%
Chefornak	4,509	1,061	23.5%
Chenega	976	500	51.2%
Chevak	9,970	2,067	20.7%
Chignik	760	86	11.3%
Chignik Lake	678	86	12.7%
Chilkat	1,331	151	11.3%
Chistochina	560	83	14.9%
Chitina	615	139	22.6%
Chuathbaluk	864	82	9.4%
Clarks Point	883	104	11.7%
Copper Center	5,618	694	12.3%
Craig	21,257	2,108	9.9%

Crooked Creek	1,076	245	22.8%
Deering	1,085	96	8.8%
Dot Lake	550	363	66.1%
Eagle	213	151	70.9%
Eek	2,687	755	28.1%
Elim	3,022	563	18.6%
Emmonak	8,030	1,723	21.5%
False Pass	416	180	43.3%
Fort Yukon	5,971	880	14.7%
Gakona	1,775	278	15.6%
Gambell	7,146	1,735	24.3%
Golovin	1,337	328	24.6%
Goodnews Bay	1,883	612	32.5%
Grayling	1,289	440	34.1%
Holy Cross	2,765	733	26.5%
Hoonah	7,899	1,407	17.8%
Hooper Bay	9,221	3,040	33.0%
Hughes	772	335	43.4%
Huslia	2,769	377	13.6%
Hydaburg	4,020	687	17.1%
Igiugig	335	29	8.6%
Kake	4,892	1,501	30.7%
Kalskag	1,712	367	21.5%
Kaltag	2,525	1,110	44.0%
Karluk	274	73	26.7%
Kasaan	638	118	18.5%
Kasigluk	4,288	1,061	24.7%
Kiana	2,778	726	26.1%
King Salmon	1,355	123	9.1%
Kipnuk	5,809	1,285	22.1%
Kivalina	3,827	836	21.8%
Klawock	6,030	805	13.4%
Knik	777,690	64,201	8.3%
Kobuk	906	164	18.1%
Kokhanok	981	144	14.6%
Kongiganak	3,466	1,265	36.5%
Kotlik	5,385	952	17.7%
Kotzebue	36,621	3,767	10.3%
Koyuk	1,795	516	28.7%
Koyukuk	1,039	293	28.2%
Kwethluk	5,511	939	17.0%
Kwigillingok	2,274	367	16.1%
Kwinhagak	5,279	1,000	18.9%

Levelock	1,350	431	31.9%
Lower Kalskag	3,172	775	24.4%
McGrath	5,241	587	11.2%
Manley Hot Springs	696	105	15.0%
Manokotak	5,282	786	14.9%
Marshall	3,283	1,054	32.1%
Mekoryuk	2,438	653	26.8%
Mentasta Lake	2,075	805	38.8%
Minto	2,389	691	28.9%
Mountain Village	6,388	1,196	18.7%
Naknek	7,056	657	9.3%
Nanwalek	2,414	1,005	41.6%
Napakiak	2,592	490	18.9%
Napaskiak	3,583	551	15.4%
Nelson Lagoon	434	120	27.7%
Nenana	6,811	1,257	18.5%
Newhalen	1,865	517	27.7%
New Koliganek	1,741	415	23.9%
New Stuyahok	4,413	697	15.8%
Newtok	2,853	530	18.6%
Nightmute	3,297	388	11.8%
Nikolai	586	251	42.9%
Ninilchik	172,163	14,110	8.2%
Noatak	3,596	753	21.0%
Nondalton	2,160	689	31.9%
Noorvik	5,414	1,137	21.0%
Northway	2,115	666	31.5%
Nuiqsut	3,217	503	15.6%
Nulato	2,915	524	18.0%
Nunapitchuk	3,583	673	18.8%
Old Harbor	2,151	275	12.8%
Oscarville	791	326	41.3%
Ouzinkie	2,562	642	25.0%
Perryville	707	115	16.3%
Pilot Point	433	86	19.9%
Pilot Station	5,330	1,682	31.6%
Pitkas Point	1,474	486	33.0%
Platinum	554	163	29.4%
Point Hope	5,176	629	12.1%
Port Graham	1,575	360	22.9%
Ruby	2,375	1,090	45.9%
Russian Mission	3,531	1,074	30.4%
St. Michael	3,233	453	14.0%

St. Paul	7,877	1,209	15.4%
Sand Point	21,316	1,921	9.0%
Savoonga	6,241	1,641	26.3%
Saxman	4,555	876	19.2%
Scammon Bay	2,802	750	26.8%
Selawik	4,636	1,397	30.1%
Shageluk	1,026	126	12.3%
Shaktoolik	2,003	281	14.0%
Shishmaref	4,069	453	11.1%
Shungnak	3,123	1,096	35.1%
Skagway	19,147	2,285	11.9%
Sleetmute	795	184	23.1%
South Naknek	832	205	24.7%
Stebbins	3,438	610	17.7%
Stevens Village	392	84	21.4%
Stony River	526	61	11.6%
Tanacross	545	151	27.8%
Tanana	2,654	314	11.8%
Tazlina	4,062	749	18.4%
Teller	1,992	344	17.3%
Tetlin	691	91	13.1%
Togiak	5,486	756	13.8%
Toksook Bay	5,944	1,469	24.7%
Tuluksak	2,939	836	28.5%
Tuntutuliak	2,682	653	24.3%
Tununak	2,601	816	31.4%
Tyonek	3,033	531	17.5%
Unalakleet	7,184	641	8.9%
Venetie	1,396	419	30.0%
Wainwright	4,214	602	14.3%
White Mountain	1,641	313	19.1%
Wrangell	12,806	1,471	11.5%
Yakutat	6,099	633	10.4%
20% Above National Average Unemployment Threshold	7.8%		

*Data extracted from <http://www.bls.gov> and <http://factfinder.census.gov> on August 28, 2015

In addition, the State agency has supported waiving the time limit in 28 contiguous boroughs and census areas based upon the combined area having an aggregate average unemployment rate 20 percent above the national average for the 24-month time period of April 2013 through March 2015.

Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data April 2013 through March 2015*		
28 Borough and Census Area	Labor Force Totals	Unemployed Totals
Aleutians East Borough	54,038	2,761
Aleutians West Census Area	104,772	5,863
Bethel Census Area	176,127	28,217
Bristol Bay Borough	11,795	985
Denali Borough	25,650	2,711
Dillingham Census Area	51,241	5,056
Fairbanks North Star Borough	1,132,638	64,920
Haines Borough	26,899	2,781
Hoonah-Angoon Census Area	27,254	4,147
Juneau Borough/city	419,389	20,981
Kenai Peninsula Borough	670,886	52,589
Ketchikan Gateway Borough	170,927	12,716
Kodiak Island Borough	159,394	9,206
Lake and Peninsula Borough	15,077	2,212
Matanuska-Susitna Borough	1,058,011	85,229
Nome Census Area	100,281	12,225
North Slope Borough	102,046	6,378
Northwest Arctic Borough	73,654	12,124
Petersburg Census Area	39,536	3,739
Prince of Wales-Hyder Census Area	67,228	8,598
Sitka Borough/city	111,793	5,787
Skagway Municipality	19,147	2,285
Southeast Fairbanks Census Area	71,025	9,142
Valdez-Cordova Census Area	118,125	11,406
Wade Hampton Census Area	67,543	16,071
Wrangell Borough/city	25,495	2,118
Yakutat Borough/city	6,738	633
Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area	63,699	11,859
Combined Area Total	4,970,408	402,739
Combined Area Unemployment Rate	8.1%	
20% Above National Average Unemployment Threshold	7.8%	

*Data extracted from <http://www.bls.gov> on August 28, 2015

8. **Action and reason for approval or denial:** The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) is approving the State agency's request to waive the ABAWD time limit in all 183 requested jurisdictions because the areas meet the requirements for approval provided at 7 CFR 273.24(f) and relevant FNS guidance.
9. **Regulatory or legislative basis for action:** The waiver is approved pursuant to 7 CFR 273.24(f).
10. **Conditions and reasons:** None.
11. **Information required for extension:** To receive an extension the State agency must provide FNS with a formal waiver request supported by data or other information as described in 7 CFR 273.24(f). If the State requests an extension based upon unemployment rates, it must provide FNS with all supporting documentation, including data spreadsheets.
12. **Expiration date:** The waiver extension is effective January 1, 2016, through December 31, 2016.
13. **Limitation, if any, on regional office approval of like requests:** The waiver is limited to the Alaska State agency.
14. **Date of national office action:** **OCT 27 2015**
15. **Date of State agency's request:** June 15, 2015
16. **Date of regional office transmittal of request:** July 21, 2015
17. **Implementation date:** January 1, 2016
18. **State agency contact:**
Beth Affatato
Beth.Affatato@alaska.gov
(907) 465-3201
19. **FNS regional contacts:**
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(415) 633-5504