



Food and
Nutrition
Service

Park Office
Center

3101 Park
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Alexandria
VA 22302

MAY 31 2016

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

RE: SNAP – Alaska Request to Waive Able-Bodied Adults without Dependents
Time Limit – Approval

Dear Ms. Windom:

This is in response to the Alaska State agency's request to waive the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) time limit for able-bodied adults without dependents throughout the State from June 1, 2016 through May 31, 2017.

The State agency's request meets the requirements for approval provided at 7 CFR 273.24(f) and relevant Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) guidance. Therefore, FNS is approving Alaska to waive the time limit Statewide for the requested 12-month period. The approval amends and extends waiver number 2150041. The attached waiver response explains the supporting evidence used and the conditions of approval. If you have any questions, please contact Brenda Mutuma at brenda.mutuma@fns.usda.gov.

Sincerely,

Sasha Gersten-Paal
Chief
Certification Policy Branch
Program Development Division

WAIVER RESPONSE

1. **Waiver serial number:** 2150041
2. **Type of request:** Amendment and 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:** Western
7. **Regulatory requirement:** 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. **Proposed alternative procedures:** The Alaska State agency has requested to waive the ABAWD time limit throughout the State from June 1, 2016 through May 31, 2017. The State agency has supported its request based upon Alaska having an average unemployment rate 20 percent above the national average for the 24-month period of April 2014 through March 2016. During this time period the national average unemployment rate was 5.5 percent; 20 percent above that rate is 6.6 percent. As detailed in the following table, Alaska's average unemployment rate for the selected time period reached 6.6 percent.

Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data		
April 2014 – March 2016*		
	Unemployed	Labor Force
Alaska	579,135	8,739,832
Unemployment Rate	6.6%	
20% Above National Unemployment Rate	6.6%	

*Data extracted from <http://www.bls.gov> on May 26, 2016

- 9. Action and reason for approval or denial:** The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) is approving the Alaska State agency's request to waive the ABAWD time limit Statewide because the State meets the requirements for approval provided at 7 CFR 273.24(f) and relevant FNS guidance.
- 10. Regulatory or legislative basis for action:** The waiver is approved pursuant to Section 6(o) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008, as amended and 7 CFR 273.24(f).
- 11. Information required for an extension:** To receive an amendment or extension the State agency must provide FNS with a formal request supported by data or other information as described in 7 CFR 273.24(f). Any request based upon unemployment rates must include data spreadsheets as supporting documentation.
- 12. Implementation date and expiration date:** The waiver is effective June 1, 2016, through May 31, 2017.
- 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:** **MAY 31 2016**
- 15. Date of State agency's request:** May 24, 2016
- 16. Date of regional office transmittal of request:** May 24, 2016
- 17. State agency contact:**
Rachel Martinez
(907) 465-3201
rachel.martinez@alaska.gov
- 18. FNS regional contact:**
Brenda Mutuma
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