



Food and
Nutrition
Service

1320 Braddock Place
Alexandria, VA
22314

September 29, 2023

Christina Davis
Chief of Policy & Program Development
Division of Public Assistance
Department of Health
P.O. Box 110640
Juneau, Alaska 99811-0640

RE: Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) – Alaska Request to
Waive Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents Time Limit – Initial –
Approval

Dear Chief Davis:

This is in response to the Alaska agency's September 14, 2023, request to waive the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) time limit for able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWDs). The attached waiver response includes the approved areas, the supporting evidence used, and the conditions of approval.

The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) also reminds the State agency that it must measure the 3-year period and track ABAWDs on a continuous basis, even in areas under a waiver. The State must continue tracking so that the State will be ready to transition off the waiver when it expires and reintroduce the time limit. Please contact your Regional Office representative with any questions.

Sincerely,

Catrina L. Kamau
Chief
Certification Policy Branch
Program Development Division

Enclosure

**ABLE-BODIED ADULTS WITHOUT DEPENDENTS (ABAWD)
WAIVER RESPONSE**

- 1. Request Type:** Initial
- 2. Statutory Citation:** Section 6(o) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008
- 3. Regulatory Citation:** 7 CFR 273.24
- 4. State:** Alaska
- 5. Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) Region:** Western
- 6. Requirement:** Section 6(o) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 and regulations at 7 CFR 273.24 provide that no individual 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) and 7 CFR 273.24 also provide 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.
- 7. Requested Area(s) and Support:** The State agency requested to waive the ABAWD time limit throughout the State from November 1, 2023, to October 31, 2024.

The State agency supported its request based upon the 27 contiguous boroughs and census areas having an aggregate average unemployment rate 20 percent above the national average for the 24-month period of February 2021 through January 2023. During this period, the national average unemployment rate was 4.4 percent; 20 percent above that rate is 5.2 percent. The aggregate average unemployment rate for the combined areas was 5.2 percent during the 24-month period (Table 1).

Table 1: Combined Area #1 (Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data, February 2021 – January 2023)

Combined Area 1
Aleutians West Census Area, AK
Anchorage Borough/municipality, AK
Bethel Census Area, AK
Bristol Bay Borough, AK
Copper River Census Area, AK
Denali Borough, AK
Dillingham Census Area, AK
Fairbanks North Star Borough, AK
Haines Borough, AK
Hoonah-Angoon Census Area, AK
Juneau Borough/city, AK
Kenai Peninsula Borough, AK
Ketchikan Gateway Borough, AK
Kodiak Island Borough, AK
Kusilvak Census Area, AK
Lake and Peninsula Borough, AK
Matanuska-Susitna Borough, AK
Nome Census Area, AK
North Slope Borough, AK
Northwest Arctic Borough, AK
Petersburg Borough, AK
Prince of Wales-Hyder Census Area, AK
Skagway Municipality, AK
Southeast Fairbanks Census Area, AK
Wrangell Borough/city, AK
Yakutat Borough/city, AK
Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area, AK
Combined Area Unemployment Rate: 5.2%

Data extracted from <http://www.bls.gov> on September 25, 2023.

8. **FNS Action and Justification:** FNS is approving the State agency's request to waive the ABAWD time limit. The State agency's request meets the requirements for approval provided at 7 CFR 273.24(f) and relevant FNS guidance.
9. **Authority:** The waiver is approved pursuant to section 6(o) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 and 7 CFR 273.24(f).
10. **Implementation Date:** November 1, 2023

Enclosure

Page 3

11. Expiration Date: October 31, 2024

12. Information Required to Submit a Modification, Extension, or New Waiver: To receive a modification, extension, or submit a new waiver to replace the current waiver, 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 and supporting documentation.

13. State Agency Contact Information:

Name: Reuben Lumbab

Phone: 907-500-2423

Email: reuben.lumbab@alaska.gov

14. FNS Regional Office Contact Information:

Name: Jacqueline Bourne

Phone: 415-293-3717

Email: jacqueline.bourne@usda.gov