



Food and
Nutrition
Service

Park Office
Center

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Alexandria
VA 22302

DEC 12 2017

Ms. Dawn Myers
Self Sufficiency Program Design Manager
Office of Self-Sufficiency Programs
Oregon Department of Human Services
500 Summer Street, North East, E-15
Salem, Oregon 97301

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

Dear Ms. Myers:

This is in response to the Oregon State agency's request to waive the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program time limit for able-bodied adults without dependents in 29 counties and 3 Native American reservation areas from January 1, 2018, through December 31, 2018.

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 Oregon to waive the time limit in the 29 counties and the 3 reservations for the requested 12-month period. Please note that this waiver also applies to the other 5 reservation areas in the State that were requested – the Total Burns Paiute, Coquille, Cow Creek, Klamath, and Umatilla Reservations – as their geographic boundaries lie within the approved counties. The approval amends and extends waiver number 2150022.

The attached waiver response includes the approved areas, the supporting evidence used, and the conditions of approval. If you have any questions please contact Shahdy Monemzadeh at Shahdy.Monemzadeh@fns.usda.gov.

FNS is reviewing its policies regarding ABAWD time limit waivers. Moving forward, FNS will be taking actions to support the Administration's priority to provide able-bodied Americans a path to self-sufficiency. This goal requires that we establish a clear and mutual commitment to moving SNAP participants to meaningful employment.

Sincerely,

Sasha Gersten-Paal
Chief
Certification Policy Branch
Program Development Division

WAIVER RESPONSE

- 1. Waiver serial number:** 2150022
- 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:** Oregon
- 6. Region:** Western
- 7. Requirement:** Section 6(o) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008, as amended, and 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. 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.
- 8. Proposed alternative procedures:** The Oregon State agency has requested to waive the ABAWD time limit in 29 contiguous counties and 3 Native American reservation areas from January 1, 2018, through December 31, 2018. The State agency has grouped 29 contiguous counties for consideration as a combined area and has supported its request based upon the combined area having an aggregate average unemployment rate 20 percent above the national average for a recent 24-month period. In addition, the State agency has supported its request for 3 reservation areas based upon each area having an average unemployment rate 20 percent above the national average for a recent 24-month period. The State agency selected the same 24-month period – February 2015 through January 2017 – for the 29 counties and 3 reservation areas. During this time period the national average unemployment rate was 5.0 percent; 20 percent above that rate is 6.0 percent. As detailed in the following tables, the aggregate unemployment rates for the requested areas reached or exceeded 6.0 percent during the selected time period.

Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data February 2015 – January 2017*		
County	Unemployment	Labor Force
1. Baker	10,721	164,088
2. Clatsop	22,605	449,719
3. Columbia	36,579	555,277
4. Coos	43,165	630,111
5. Crook	16,729	220,928
6. Curry	15,913	213,720
7. Deschutes	111,343	2,104,563
8. Douglas	74,137	1,085,369
9. Gilliam	1,217	19,887
10. Grant	6,072	74,708
11. Harney	5,422	81,215
12. Hood River	14,656	330,953
13. Jackson	148,391	2,403,223
14. Jefferson	16,192	234,434
15. Josephine	57,184	814,981
16. Klamath	50,466	698,417
17. Lake	5,794	83,064
18. Lincoln	30,191	498,448
19. Linn	83,003	1,351,160
20. Malheur	17,419	294,654
21. Morrow	7,208	135,582
22. Polk	47,701	898,959
23. Sherman	1,120	21,469
24. Tillamook	14,547	277,149
25. Umatilla	49,952	860,022
26. Union	17,218	285,989
27. Wallowa	5,628	79,093
28. Wasco	16,687	322,360
29. Wheeler	772	16,584
Total	928,032	15,206,126
Combined Area Unemployment Rate	6.1%	

*Data extracted from <http://www.bls.gov> on November 8, 2017

American Community Survey and Bureau of Labor Statistics Data February 2015-January 2017**	
Reservation Area	Unemployment Rate
Grand Ronde Reservation	7.8%
Siletz Reservation	13.8%
Warm Springs Reservation	15.0%

**Data extracted from <http://www.bls.gov> and <http://factfinder.census.gov> on November 8 and 21, 2017.

- 10. Action and reason for approval or denial:** The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) is approving the Oregon State agency's request to waive the ABAWD time limit in the 29 counties and 3 reservation areas because it meets the requirements for approval provided at 7 CFR 273.24(f) and relevant FNS guidance.
- 11. 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).
- 12. 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 and supporting documentation.
- 13. Implementation date and expiration date:** The waiver is effective January 1, 2018, through December 31, 2018.
- 14. Limitation if any on regional office approval of like requests:** The waiver is limited to the Oregon State agency.
- 15. Date of national office action:** DEC 12 2017
- 16. Date of State agency's request:** October 20, 2017
- 17. Date of regional office transmittal of request:** October 20, 2017
- 18. State agency contact:**
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19. FNS regional contact:

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