



**United States
Department of
Agriculture**

NOV 30 2015

**Food and
Nutrition
Service**

**3101 Park
Center Drive**

**Alexandria, VA
22302-1500**

Ms. Belit Burke
SNAP Manager, Self-Sufficiency Programs
Oregon Department of Human Services
500 Summer St. North East E48
Salem, Oregon 97301

RE: SNAP – Oregon Request to Waive Able-bodied Adults without Dependents Time Limit – Extension and Modification – Approval

Dear Ms. Burke:

This is in response to the Oregon Department of Human Services request to extend and modify waiver number 2150022, which would allow Oregon to exempt able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWD) in 34 contiguous counties and eight reservation areas from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program time limit at 7 CFR 273.24 for calendar year 2016.

The Oregon State agency has supported its request to waive the time limit in 34 contiguous counties based upon the combined area having an aggregate average unemployment rate 20 percent above the national average for a recent 24-month period. The 34 counties are: Baker, Benton, Clackamas, Clatsop, Columbia, Coos, Crook, Curry, Deschutes, Douglas, Gilliam, Grant, Harney, Hood River, Jackson, Jefferson, Josephine, Klamath, Lake, Lane, Lincoln, Linn, Malheur, Marion, Morrow, Polk, Sherman, Tillamook, Umatilla, Union, Wallowa, Wasco, Wheeler, and Yamhill counties.

The State agency has also requested to waive the time limit in Burns Paiute, Coos/Lower Umpqua/Siuslaw, Coquille, Cow Creek, Grand Ronde, Klamath, Siletz, and Warm Springs reservation areas based upon each individual 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 the American Community Survey data provided by the Oregon State agency supports waiver approval for the requested areas. Therefore, the Food and Nutrition Service is approving Oregon's request to waive the ABAWD time limit in the 34 counties and eight reservation areas for 12 months, effective January 1, 2016, through December 31, 2016.

Ms. Belit Burke

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The detailed waiver response is attached. If you have any questions please contact Shahdy Monemzadeh at Shahdy.Monemzadeh@fns.usda.gov, or at (415) 645-1923.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sasha Gersten-Paal". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sasha Gersten-Paal
Chief
Certification Policy Branch
Program Development Division

Attachment

WAIVER RESPONSE

1. **Waiver serial number:** 2150022
2. **Type of request:** Extension and modification
3. **Regulatory citation:** 7 CFR 273.24
4. **State:** Oregon
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 Oregon State agency has requested to waive the ABAWD time limit at 7 CFR 273.24 in 34 contiguous counties and eight reservation areas from January 1, 2016, through December 31, 2016.

The Oregon State agency has supported its request to waive the time limit in the 34 contiguous counties based upon the combined area having an aggregate average unemployment rate 20 percent above the national average for a recent 24-month period. The 34 counties are: Baker, Benton, Clackamas, Clatsop, Columbia, Coos, Crook, Curry, Deschutes, Douglas, Gilliam, Grant, Harney, Hood River, Jackson, Jefferson, Josephine, Klamath, Lake, Lane, Lincoln, Linn, Malheur, Marion, Morrow, Polk, Sherman, Tillamook, Umatilla, Union, Wallowa, Wasco, Wheeler, and Yamhill counties.

In addition, the State has requested to waive the time limit in Burns Paiute, Coos/Lower Umpqua/Siuslaw, Coquille, Cow Creek, Grand Ronde, Klamath, Siletz, and Warm Springs reservation areas based upon each individual area having an aggregate average unemployment rate 20 percent above the national average for a recent 24-month period.

The State agency selected the same 24-month period – January 2013 through December 2014 – for all 34 counties and eight reservation areas. During this 24-month period the national unemployment rate was 6.8 percent; 20 percent above this is 8.1 percent. As detailed in the following tables, the 34 counties and eight reservation areas qualify based upon having unemployment rates 20 percent above the national average from January 2013 through December 2014.

Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data January 2013 to December 2014*		
County	Unemployed	Labor Force
Baker	14,706	162,322
Benton	58,128	1,058,078
Clackamas	317,938	4,768,027
Clatsop	30,777	431,150
Columbia	48,286	538,910
Coos	61,160	630,786
Crook	23,860	215,380
Curry	21,792	207,838
Deschutes	165,896	1,910,702
Douglas	105,795	1,059,561
Gilliam	1,694	20,190
Grant	8,849	76,437
Harney	8,551	79,871
Hood River	19,624	332,845
Jackson	212,332	2,317,569
Jefferson	21,718	223,276
Josephine	80,830	782,067
Klamath	70,506	689,498
Lake	8,858	83,805
Lane	303,300	4,044,607
Lincoln	41,343	494,891
Linn	116,347	1,292,305

Malheur	24,630	293,750
Marion	289,544	3,562,731
Morrow	9,812	132,970
Polk	62,560	840,598
Sherman	1,717	20,863
Tillamook	20,022	264,634
Umatilla	70,570	846,480
Union	22,322	281,555
Wallowa	8,196	77,297
Wasco	23,295	327,490
Wheeler	1,129	17,594
Yamhill	84,525	1,195,840
TOTAL	2,360,612	29,281,917
Combined Area Unemployment Rate	8.1%	
20% Above National Average Threshold	8.1%	

Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data/Census Bureau Data*	
Reservation Area	Unemployment Rate: January 2013 – December 2014
Burns Paiute	42.5%
Coos/Lower Umpqua/Siuslaw	11.7%
Coquille	15.2%
Cow Creek	11.1%
Grand Ronde	20.7%
Klamath	41.3%
Siletz	18.1%
Warm Springs	19.8%
20% Above National Average Threshold	8.1%

*Data extracted from <http://www.bls.gov> and <http://factfinder.census.gov> on November 24, 2015.

8. **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 all 34 counties and 8 reservation areas 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 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 Oregon State Agency.

14. Date of national office action:

15. Date of State agency's request: October 1, 2015

16. Date of regional office transmittal of request: November 2, 2015

17. Implementation date: January 1, 2016

18. State agency contact:

Belit Burke

Belit.Burke@dhsosha.state.or.us

503-945-5389

19. FNS regional contact:

Shahdy Momenzadeh

Shahdy.Momenzadeh@fns.usda.gov

415-645-1923