



Food and
Nutrition
Service

Park Office
Center

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Alexandria
VA 22302

SEP 19 2016

Ms. Belit Burke
Self Sufficiency Program Design Administrator
Office of Self-Sufficiency Programs
Oregon Department of Human Services
500 Summer Street, North East, E48
Salem, Oregon 97301

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

Dear Ms. Burke:

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 33 counties from January 1, 2017, through August 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 Oregon to waive the time limit in the 33 counties for the requested 8-month period. This waiver also applies to all reservation areas in the State 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 Jodi Schroeder at Jodi.Schroeder@fns.usda.gov.

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, 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 in 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 33 contiguous counties from January 1, 2017, through August 31, 2017. The State agency has supported its request based upon the 33 counties having an aggregate average unemployment rate 20 percent above the national average for the 24-month period of January 2014 through December 2015. During this time period the national average unemployment rate was 5.72 percent; 20 percent above that rate is 6.9 percent. As detailed in the following table, the combined 33 county area had an aggregate unemployment rate of 7.0 percent during the selected 24-month time period.

Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data January 2014 – December 2015*		
County	Unemployment	Labor Force
1. Baker	12,249	160,857
2. Benton	50,361	1,074,373
3. Clatsop	26,502	435,953
4. Columbia	42,490	543,463
5. Coos	51,625	623,852
6. Crook	19,778	215,446
7. Curry	19,301	207,122
8. Deschutes	135,752	1,983,171
9. Douglas	89,235	1,059,975
10. Gilliam	1,437	19,619
11. Grant	7,246	74,588
12. Harney	6,677	78,992
13. Hood River	16,744	327,766
14. Jackson	178,812	2,332,404
15. Jefferson	18,612	228,073
16. Josephine	68,254	791,426
17. Klamath	59,426	684,664
18. Lake	7,280	83,432
19. Lane	262,964	4,089,012
20. Lincoln	35,969	492,513
21. Linn	97,978	1,304,758
22. Malheur	20,765	288,087
23. Marion	244,044	3,621,156
24. Morrow	8,393	132,101
25. Polk	54,175	862,965
26. Sherman	1,464	21,258
27. Tillamook	17,104	269,791
28. Umatilla	60,395	845,976
29. Union	18,946	278,755
30. Wallowa	6,918	77,561
31. Wasco	19,620	318,725
32. Wheeler	991	17,221
33. Yamhill	71,567	1,213,540
Total	1,733,074	24,758,595
Combined Area Unemployment Rate	7.0%	

*Data extracted from <http://www.bls.gov> on September 12, 2016

- 9. 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 33 counties because the jurisdictions meet 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 and supporting documentation.
- 12. Implementation date and expiration date:** The waiver is effective January 1, 2017, through August 31, 2017.
- 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:** SEP 19 2016
- 15. Date of State agency's request:** August 8, 2016
- 16. Date of regional office transmittal of request:** August 25, 2016
- 17. State agency contact:**
Belit Burke
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- 18. FNS regional contact:**
Jodi Schroeder
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