



Food and
Nutrition
Service

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Date: November 9, 2018

Belit Burke
SSP Program Design Administrator
Office of Self-Sufficiency Programs
Oregon Department of Human Services
500 Summer Street, NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (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 September 20, 2018, request to waive the SNAP time limit for able-bodied adults without dependents in 23 counties and 7 reservation areas from January 1, 2019, through December 31, 2019.

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 the State to waive the time limit for a 12-month period in these areas, as requested. The attached waiver response includes the approved areas, the supporting evidence used, and the conditions of approval. Please contact your FNS Regional Office with any questions.

FNS is reviewing its policies regarding waivers of the SNAP time limit for able-bodied adults without dependents. 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

Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWD) Waiver Response

1. **Serial Number:** 2150022
2. **Request Type:** Extension and amendment
3. **Statutory Citation:** Section 6(o) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008
4. **Regulatory Citation:** 7 CFR 273.24
5. **State:** Oregon
6. **Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) Region:** Western
7. **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.
8. **Requested Area(s) and Support:** The Oregon State agency has requested to waive the ABAWD time limit in 23 counties and 7 reservations from January 1, 2019, through December 31, 2019. The State agency has grouped 22 contiguous counties together and considered another county individually. The State has supported its request based on each respective area having an aggregate average unemployment rate 20 percent above the national average for the recent 24-month period of March 2016 through February 2018. During this time period the national average unemployment rate was 4.5 percent; 20 percent above that rate is 5.4 percent. As shown in the following tables, the average unemployment rates for the requested areas were at least 5.4 percent during the selected time period.

Table 1: Combined Area 1 (Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data March 2016 through February 2018)

Counties
1. Baker County
2. Coos County
3. Crook County
4. Curry County
5. Douglas County
6. Gilliam County
7. Grant County

Counties
8. Harney County
9. Hood River County
10. Jefferson County
11. Josephine County
12. Klamath County
13. Lake County
14. Lincoln County
15. Malheur County
16. Morrow County
17. Sherman County
18. Umatilla County
19. Union County
20. Wallowa County
21. Wasco County
22. Wheeler County
Combined Area Unemployment Rate: 5.5%
Data extracted from http://www.bls.gov on October 11, 2018

Table 2: Area 2 (Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data March 2016 through February 2018)

County
1. Columbia County
Combined Area Unemployment Rate: 5.4%
Data extracted from http://www.bls.gov on October 11, 2018

The State agency has supported its request for the 7 reservation areas based upon each individual area having an average unemployment rate 20 percent above the national average for the same recent 24-month period as above.

Table 3: Reservation Areas (American Community Survey and Bureau of Labor Statistics Data May 2016 through April 2018)

Reservation	Unemployment Rate
1. Burns Paiute Indian Reservation	13.5%
2. Coquille Reservation	6.9%
3. Cow Creek Reservation	5.4%
4. Grand Ronde Reservation	8.5%
5. Klamath Reservation	63.6%

Reservation	Unemployment Rate
6. Siletz Reservation	15.7%
7. Warm Springs Reservation	12.8%
Data extracted from http://www.bls.gov and http://factfinder.census.gov on October 26, 2018.	

- 9. FNS Action and Justification:** FNS is approving the State agency to waive the ABAWD time limit as requested. The State agency's request meets the requirements for approval provided at 7 CFR 273.24(f) and relevant FNS guidance.
- 10. Authority:** The waiver is approved pursuant to section 6(o) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 and 7 CFR 273.24(f).
- 11. Implementation Date:** January 1, 2019
- 12. Expiration Date:** December 31, 2019
- 13. Information Required for Amendment or 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.
- 14. State Agency Contact Information:**
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- 15. FNS Regional Office Contact Information:**
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