



Food and
Nutrition
Service

Park Office
Center

3101 Park
Center Drive
Alexandria
VA 22302

SEP 09 2016

Babette Roberts
Community Services Division Director
Department of Social and Health Services
PO Box 45440
Olympia, Washington 98504-5440

RE: SNAP – Washington Request to Waive Able-bodied Adults without
Dependents Time Limit– Approval

Dear Ms. Roberts:

This is in response to the Washington State agency's request to waive the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program time limit for able-bodied adults without dependents in 37 counties from January 1, 2017, through December 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 Washington to waive the time limit in the 37 counties for the requested 12-month period. The approval amends and extends waiver number 2150021. The attached waiver response includes the approved areas, the supporting evidence used, and the conditions of approval. If you have any questions please contact Kacie O'Brien at Kacie.O'Brien@fns.usda.gov.

Sincerely,

Sasha Gersten-Paal
Chief
Certification Policy Branch
Program Development Division

Attachment

WAIVER RESPONSE

1. **Waiver serial number:** 2150021
2. **Type of request:** Extension and Modification
3. **Statutory citation:** Section 6(o) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008, as amended
4. **Regulation citation:** 7 CFR 273.24
5. **State:** Washington
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 Washington State agency has requested to waive the ABAWD time limit in 37 contiguous counties from January 1, 2017, through December 31, 2017. The State agency has supported its request based upon the 37 counties having an aggregate average unemployment rate 20 percent above the national average for the 24-month period of May 2014 through April 2016. During this time period the national average unemployment rate was 5.45 percent; 20 percent above that rate is 6.5 percent. As detailed in the following tables, the combined 37 county area had an aggregate unemployment rate of 6.7 percent during the selected time period.

Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data May 2014 through April 2016		
Contiguous Counties	Unemployment	Labor Force
1. Adams County	14,390	206,915
2. Asotin County	11,636	234,740
3. Benton County	149,001	2,199,665
4. Chelan County	59,084	1,030,192

5. Clallam County	52,177	645,400
6. Clark County	332,462	5,118,546
7. Columbia County	2,778	41,628
8. Cowlitz County	81,126	1,064,486
9. Douglas County	31,760	476,102
10. Ferry County	6,301	59,577
11. Franklin County	72,020	931,675
12. Garfield County	1,404	22,502
13. Grant County	78,780	1,088,837
14. Grays Harbor County	59,959	649,785
15. Island County	47,619	766,330
16. Jefferson County	19,744	269,055
17. Kitsap County	156,986	2,766,458
18. Kittitas County	31,550	497,769
19. Klickitat County	16,510	227,976
20. Lewis County	63,092	744,039
21. Lincoln County	6,870	118,317
22. Mason County	43,777	558,766
23. Okanogan County	35,780	510,915
24. Pacific County	17,462	190,094
25. Pend Oreille County	10,532	110,936
26. Pierce County	610,708	9,412,902
27. San Juan County	8,979	184,891
28. Skagit County	93,229	1,366,865
29. Skamania County	8,994	120,434
30. Spokane County	358,298	5,472,313
31. Stevens County	37,551	422,315
32. Thurston County	182,323	3,015,024
33. Wahkiakum County	2,795	30,750
34. Walla Walla County	39,822	680,509
35. Whatcom County	151,147	2,468,186
36. Whitman County	26,298	543,468
37. Yakima County	238,975	2,927,011
Combined Area Total	3,161,919	47,175,373
Combined Area Unemployment Rate	6.7%	

*Data extracted from <http://www.bls.gov> on August 8, 2016

9. **Action and reason for approval or denial:** The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) is approving the State agency's request to waive the ABAWD time limit in the 37 counties because the areas 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 7 CFR 273.24(f).
11. **Information required for 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 extension is effective January 1, 2017, through December 31, 2017.
13. **Limitation, if any, on regional office approval of like requests:** The waiver is limited to the Washington State agency.
14. **Date of national office action:** SEP 09 2016
15. **Date of State agency's request:** August 5, 2016
16. **Date of regional office transmittal of request:** August 5, 2016
17. **State agency contact:**
Shavana Howard
Shavana.Howard@dshs.wa.gov
(360) 725-4338
18. **FNS regional contacts:**
Kacie O'Brien
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(415) 645-1925