



Food and
Nutrition
Service

Park Office
Center

3101 Park
Center Drive
Alexandria
VA 22302

DEC 06 2016

Babs 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 38 counties and 1 reservation area from January 1, 2017, through December 31, 2017. The State agency had already requested to waive 37 counties for the same time period, and the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) approved that request on September 9, 2016. The State agency has now submitted an amended request to include one additional county and reservation area.

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 38 counties and 1 reservation area for the requested 12-month period. The approval amends and extends waiver number 2150021 and replaces FNS' September 9, 2016, approval of the same number. 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.

Sincerely,

Sasha Gersten-Paal
Chief
Certification Policy Branch
Program Development Division
Attachment

WAIVER RESPONSE

1. **Waiver serial number:** 2150021
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:** Washington
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 Washington State agency has requested to waive the ABAWD time limit in 38 counties and 1 reservation area from January 1, 2017, through December 31, 2017. The State agency has grouped 38 contiguous counties for consideration as a combined area, while considering the reservation area individually. The State agency has supported its request based upon the areas having aggregate average unemployment rates 20 percent above the national average for the 24-month period of August 2014 through July 2016. During this time period, the national average unemployment rate was 5.28 percent; 20 percent above that rate is 6.3 percent. As detailed in the following tables, the areas' aggregate unemployment rates during the selected time period exceeded 6.3 percent.

Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data August 2014 through July 2016		
Contiguous Counties	Unemployment	Labor Force
1. Adams County	14,338	208,582
2. Asotin County	11,656	235,980
3. Benton County	148,331	2,213,066
4. Chelan County	59,500	1,036,452
5. Clallam County	52,525	647,715

6. Clark County	332,251	5,150,849
7. Columbia County	2,776	41,619
8. Cowlitz County	81,199	1,070,076
9. Douglas County	32,229	478,702
10. Ferry County	6,278	59,867
11. Franklin County	72,262	938,725
12. Garfield County	1,397	22,325
13. Grant County	79,057	1,086,276
14. Grays Harbor County	59,264	650,303
15. Island County	47,622	768,458
16. Jefferson County	19,782	270,085
17. Kitsap County	158,158	2,781,493
18. Kittitas County	31,507	504,349
19. Klickitat County	16,480	226,687
20. Lewis County	63,131	748,072
21. Lincoln County	6,924	120,620
22. Mason County	43,789	559,626
23. Okanogan County	35,855	510,263
24. Pacific County	17,323	191,068
25. Pend Oreille County	10,520	111,465
26. Pierce County	610,567	9,477,885
27. San Juan County	9,106	185,486
28. Skagit County	93,415	1,373,158
29. Skamania County	8,907	121,042
30. Snohomish County	474,875	9,667,232
31. Spokane County	359,154	5,500,765
32. Stevens County	37,489	424,439
33. Thurston County	182,809	3,035,838
34. Wahkiakum County	2,813	30,835
35. Walla Walla County	39,671	679,574
36. Whatcom County	151,555	2,482,414
37. Whitman County	26,526	546,565
38. Yakima County	239,384	2,944,662
Combined Area Total	3,640,425	57,102,618
Combined Area Unemployment Rate	6.4%	

*Data extracted from <http://www.bls.gov> on December 2, 2016

Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data / Census Bureau Data*	
Reservation Area	Unemployment Rate: August 2014 – July 2016
Muckleshoot Reservation	9.1%

*Data extracted from <http://www.bls.gov> and <http://factfinder.census.gov> on December 2, 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 38 counties and 1 reservation area, 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:** DEC 06 2016
15. **Date of State agency's request:** November 3, 2016
16. **Date of Regional Office transmittal of request:** November 17, 2016
17. **State agency contact:**
Shavana Howard
Shavana.Howard@dshs.wa.gov
(360) 725-4338
18. **FNS regional contact:**
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