



United States
Department of
Agriculture

SEP 14 2012

Food and
Nutrition
Service

3101 Park
Center Drive

Alexandria, VA
22302-1500

Mr. Steve Corsi
Director
Wyoming Department of Family Services
2300 Capitol Avenue
Third Floor Hathaway Bldg
Cheyenne, Wyoming 82002-0490

Dear Mr. Corsi:

RE: SNAP – Wyoming Request to Waive the Able-bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWD) Time Limit on the Wind River Indian Reservation - Denial

This letter is in response to the Wyoming State agency's request (2120039) to exempt tribal members of the Wind River Indian Reservation, from the work requirements of 7 CFR 273.24 because of insufficient jobs. The request would waive the participation time limit for able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWDs).

The State agency reports that the Wind River Reservation has an average unemployment rate greater than 10 percent during a recent 3-month time period. The State based its rationale for exemption on maintaining an average unemployment rate exceeding 10 percent for the 3-month period of January-March 2010 and has asked for a 3-year approval starting October 1, 2012. The State agency believes the waiver would provide consistency for households and State agency operations in areas where unemployment remains higher than the national average.

In accordance with 7 CFR 273.24 (f)(2)(i), "the State agency must submit evidence that an area has a recent 12-month average unemployment rate over 10 percent; a recent 3-month average unemployment rate over 10 percent; or a historical seasonal unemployment rate over 10 percent." Though the data the State provided is credible, Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) does not consider data from Fiscal Year (FY) 2010 to be recent enough to support a claim of continued lack of employment opportunities for FY 2013. In considering unemployment rates, FNS also looked at the 24-month average unemployment rate 20 percent above the National unemployment rate and additional 3-month average rates for FY 2012. Unfortunately, these rates were too low and would not allow for approval of the requested waiver.

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FNS appreciates Wyoming's desire to provide consistency in high unemployment areas within the State. However, we are denying the waiver request due to data that does not adequately support the request. If you have any questions, please contact Vicki Flores at 303-844-4458.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lizbeth Silberman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Lizbeth Silberman

Director

Program Development Division