

STATE WAIVER REQUEST

1. **Waiver Serial Number (if applicable):** 2150022
2. **Type of request:** Waiver 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:** WRO
7. **Regulatory requirements:** 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 has an unemployment rate of over 10 percent, or does not have a sufficient number of jobs to provide employment for the individuals.
8. **Description of alternative procedures:** The State of Washington is requesting to exempt able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWDs) in 38 counties and 1 reservation from SNAP time limits at 7 CFR 273.24.
9. **Justification for request:** Under SNAP regulations at 7 CFR 273.24(f)(2), areas may support a claim of insufficient jobs by submitting evidence that an area has an average unemployment rate for a 24-month time period that exceeds the national average for the same 24-month period by 20 percent. 7 CFR 273.24(f)(6) provides that States may define areas to be waived.

The State of Washington seeks a waiver for a regional group of 38 contiguous counties based on the region's aggregate average unemployment rate for the 24-month period of July 2017 through June 2019. The average national unemployment rate for this period was 3.9 percent; 20 percent above this was 4.7 percent. The region's aggregate average unemployment rate for this period was 5.1 percent.

**Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data
July 2017 through June 2019**

Contiguous Counties	Unemployed Total	Labor Force Total
Adams County	12,546	226,100
Asotin County	10,518	244,926
Benton County	126,987	2,387,788
Chelan County	50,839	1,091,846
Clallam County	44,644	672,574
Clark County	271,479	5,551,154
Columbia County	2,411	43,221
Cowlitz County	66,757	1,105,557
Douglas County	28,238	519,282
Ferry County	7,056	60,271
Franklin County	62,441	1,001,132
Garfield County	1,241	21,725
Grant County	71,169	1,114,270
Grays Harbor County	46,913	676,852
Island County	43,727	830,006
Jefferson County	17,409	291,566
Kitsap County	140,570	2,957,872
Kittitas County	29,167	541,060
Klickitat County	14,099	240,757
Lewis County	51,710	808,820
Lincoln County	5,976	121,493
Mason County	37,384	583,165
Okanogan County	32,773	498,941
Pacific County	14,112	201,202
Pend Oreille County	8,499	116,039
Pierce County	536,854	10,203,854
San Juan County	7,805	197,588
Skagit County	77,428	1,451,607
Skamania County	7,330	128,581
Snohomish County	391,864	10,337,345
Spokane County	313,328	5,883,057
Stevens County	31,890	442,975
Thurston County	161,060	3,314,058
Wahkiakum County	2,117	31,763
Walla Walla County	34,303	706,634
Whatcom County	130,993	2,695,382

Whitman County	24,593	565,495
Yakima County	206,328	3,104,997
Combined Area Total	3,124,558	60,970,955
Combined Area Unemployment Rate	5.1%	
20% Above National Average Threshold	4.7%	

The State of Washington seeks a waiver for Muckleshoot Reservation based on having an average unemployment rate 20 percent above the national average for a recent 24-month period. The reservation unemployment rate was calculated by applying 2013-2017 5-year American Community Survey (ACS) share ratios to county-level Bureau of Labor Statistics data for July 2017 through June 2019.

American Community Survey and Bureau of Labor Statistics Data July 2017 through June 2019			
Reservations	Unemployed	Labor Force	Unemployment Rate
King County (part); Washington (part); Muckleshoot Reservation and Off-Reservation Trust Land, WA	3,882	44,462	8.7%
Pierce County (part); Washington (part); Muckleshoot Reservation and Off-Reservation Trust Land, WA	75	346	21.7%
Muckleshoot Reservation	3,957	44,808	8.8%

10. Anticipated impact on households and State agency operations:

This waiver will provide consistency for households and State agency operations in areas where unemployment remains higher than the national average.

11. Caseload information, including percent, characteristics, and quality control error rate for affected portion (if applicable):

The caseload for these areas, as of September 23rd, 2019, represent 15.7 percent¹ of the caseload for the state. There are no quality control procedures involved.

12. Anticipated implementation date and time period for which waiver is needed:

The State is requesting a one-year waiver, from January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020.

13. Proposed quality control review procedures:

¹ ESA-EMAPS Report #4840, September 2019

There are no special quality control procedures needed in conjunction with this waiver.

14. State agency submitting waiver request and State contact person:

15. Signature and title of requesting official:



Title: Community Services Division Director

Email for transmission of response: Babette.Roberts@dshs.wa.gov

16. Date of request:

17. State agency staff contact (name/email/telephone):

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BFET Administrator
360-725-4338

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ABAWD Program Manager
360-725-4609

18. Regional office contact person (*to be completed by FNS regional office*):