



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES
Community Services Division
Post Office Box 45440 Olympia WA 98504-5440

October 15, 2019

Maribelle Balbes, Regional Director
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
United States Department of Agriculture
Western Region, Food and Nutrition Service
90 Seventh Street, Suite 10-100
San Francisco, California 94103

Dear Mrs. Balbes:

Washington State is requesting a waiver from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) requirements for Able Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWD) under [7 CFR §273.24](#) for the entire State, except for King County. Washington State's current ABAWD waiver is set to expire on December 31, 2019.

Under SNAP regulations, 7 CFR §273.24(f)(2), areas may qualify for an ABAWD time limit waiver if they have insufficient jobs. To support this claim, states may submit evidence that an area has a 24-month unemployment rate average that exceeds the national average by 20 percent for the same time period, (See, 7 CFR §273.24(f)(3)(iii) and, 7 CFR §273.24(f)(6) which references how States may define areas to be waived).

For the 24-month period of July 2017 through June 2019, a group of 38 counties in the state of Washington had a combined area unemployment rate of 5.1 percent. For this same period, the U.S. national average plus 20 percent was 4.7 percent.

Washington is also requesting a waiver for the Muckleshoot tribal reservation based on their average unemployment rate of 8.8 percent. [Washington State Administrative Policy No. 7.01](#), requires a letter of support from the tribe prior to submitting a formal request for the waiver. The letter of support from the tribe has not been received. We ask permission to submit an amendment to this waiver upon receipt of the letter.

We request exemption for the entire State, except for King County, from the work requirements outlined in 7 CFR §273.24, due to insufficient employment within the past 24 month period. We are requesting waiver approval effective January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020.

Thank you for your consideration of this waiver request. If you have any questions please contact Shavana Howard at (360) 725-4338 or Shavana.Howard@dshs.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

Babs Roberts, Director,
Community Services Division

Enclosure

Cc:

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