



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

Department of Health

DIVISION OF PUBLIC ASSISTANCE
Policy & Program Development
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July 29, 2024

Charles Tobin
Regional Director
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
550 Kearny Street, Room 400
San Francisco, CA 94108

Dear Mr. Tobin:

The State of Alaska is submitting the enclosed request to modify and extend waiver 2150041 regarding the ABAWD work requirements and time limit. We are requesting this waiver be approved for a one-year period from November 1, 2024 through October 31, 2025.

Under SNAP regulations at 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 an average unemployment rate for a 24-month time period that is at least 20 percent above the national average for the same 24-month period.

Alaska is supplying evidence that the regional grouping of 29 census areas and boroughs in our state qualify for a time limit waiver based on the region's average unemployment rate during the 24-month period of May 2022 through April 2024. Based on the supplied evidence, the Anchorage Borough will not qualify for a time limit waiver, except for the Alaska Native Village Statistical Area (ANVSA) or Eklutna, located within the Anchorage borough.

The State is requesting this waiver to help manage our caseload and to better serve our clients.

If you have any questions, please contact Christina Davis at christina.davis@alaska.gov, Lydia Luchini at lydia.luchini@alaska.gov, or Reuben Lumbab at reuben.lumbab@alaska.gov.

Thank you,

Christina Davis

Christina Davis
Chief of Policy & Program Development
Division of Public Assistance

ABLE-BODIED ADULTS WITHOUT DEPENDENTS (ABAWD) WAIVER REQUEST

- 1. Waiver Serial Number (if applicable):** 2150041
- 2. Type of request:** 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:** Alaska
- 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 Alaska is requesting to exempt able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWDs) in 29 boroughs and census areas 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 qualify for an ABAWD time limit waiver if they have insufficient jobs. To support this claim, states may submit evidence that an area has an average unemployment rate for a 24-month time period that is at least 20 percent above the national average for the same 24-month period. 7 CFR 273.24(f)(6) provides that States may define areas to be waived.

The State of Alaska seeks a waiver for a regional group of 29 contiguous boroughs and census areas, including the Alaska Native Village Statistical Area (ANVSA) of Eklutna, based on the region's average aggregate average unemployment rate for the 24-month period of May 2022 through April 2024. The national average unemployment rate for this 24-month period was 3.6 percent; 20 percent above this is 4.4 percent. The region's average aggregate average unemployment rate for this period was 4.8 percent. The data used for this waiver determination comes from the Local Area Unemployment Statistics, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Department of Labor.

Regional Grouping of Borough/Census Areas	Unemployed	Labor Force	Unemployment Rate
Aleutians East Borough, AK	1,306	59,283	2.2
Aleutians West Census Area, AK	2,633	84,723	3.1
Bethel Census Area, AK	15,389	160,547	9.6
Bristol Bay Borough, AK	396	10,519	3.8
Chugach Census Area, AK	3,631	82,341	4.4
Copper River Census Area, AK	2,682	33,104	8.1
Denali Borough, AK	1,490	24,354	6.1
Dillingham Census Area, AK	2,577	41,005	6.3
Fairbanks North Star Borough, AK	40,984	1,088,561	3.8
Haines Borough, AK	1,750	26,040	6.7
Hoonah-Angoon Census Area, AK	1,717	30,451	5.6
Juneau Borough/city, AK	12,274	416,190	2.9
Kenai Peninsula Borough, AK	31,525	671,328	4.7
Ketchikan Gateway Borough, AK	6,073	163,515	3.7
Kodiak Island Borough, AK	6,208	142,299	4.4
Kusilvak Census Area, AK	7,998	54,912	14.6
Lake and Peninsula Borough, AK	909	15,712	5.8
Matanuska-Susitna Borough, AK	56,694	1,191,277	4.8
Nome Census Area, AK	7,384	98,715	7.5
North Slope Borough, AK	3,622	73,456	4.9
Northwest Arctic Borough, AK	6,500	67,234	9.7
Petersburg Borough, AK	1,785	33,467	5.3
Prince of Wales-Hyder Census Area, AK	4,094	63,674	6.4
Sitka Borough/city, AK	3,121	107,920	2.9
Skagway Municipality, AK	1,164	18,341	6.3
Southeast Fairbanks Census Area, AK	4,170	79,956	5.2
Wrangell Borough/city, AK	1,060	21,533	4.9
Yakutat Borough/city, AK	450	7,556	6.0
Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area, AK	4,929	56,563	8.7
Combined Regional Unemployment Rate	4.8%		

Alaska Native Village Statistical Areas (not located in eligible boroughs)	Unemployed	Labor Force	Unemployment Rate
Eklutna ANVSA	80	471	16.9

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 affection portion (if applicable):

The ABAWD caseload for the proposed waived areas is 7,517 SNAP recipients as of June 2024, accounting for .09% percent of the total SNAP caseload for the state. The ABAWD caseload for the proposed non-waived areas of Alaska is 4,646 SNAP recipients as of June 2024, accounting for .06% of the total SNAP 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 November 1, 2024 through October 31, 2025.

13. Proposed quality control review procedures:

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

14. Name, title, email, and signature of requesting official:

Name: Christina Davis

Title: Chief of Policy & Program Development

Email: christina.davis@alaska.gov

Signature: 

15. Date of request: 7/29/2024

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

Name: Reuben Lumbab

Title: Public Assistance Analyst II

Email: reuben.lumbab@alaska.gov

Name: Lydia Luchini

Title: Public Assistance Programs Officer

Email: lydia.luchini@alaska.gov

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