



Food and
Nutrition
Service

Park Office
Center

3101 Park
Center Drive
Alexandria
VA 22302

DEC 27 2016

Ms. Monica Windom
Chief of Policy and Program Development
Division of Public Assistance
Alaska Department of Health and Social Services
PO BOX 110640
Juneau, Alaska 99811

RE: SNAP – Alaska Request to Waive Able-Bodied Adults without Dependents Time
Limit – Extension – Approval

Dear Ms. Windom:

This is in response to the Alaska State agency request to waive the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program time limit for able-bodied adults without dependents throughout the State from January 1, 2017, through December 31, 2018.

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 Alaska to waive the time limit throughout the State for the requested 24-month period. Effective January 1, 2017, the approval amends and extends waiver number 2150041 and replaces FNS' May 31, 2016 approval of the same number. The attached waiver response includes the supporting evidence used and the conditions of approval. If you have questions, please contact Shahdy Monemzadeh at Shahdy.Monemzadeh@fns.usda.gov.

Sincerely,

Sasha Gersten-Paal
Chief
Certification Policy Branch
Program Development Division

WAIVER RESPONSE

1. **Waiver serial number:** 2150041
2. **Type of request:** Extension
3. **Statutory citation:** Section 6(o) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008, as amended
4. **Regulation citation:** 7 CFR 273.24
5. **State:** Alaska
6. **Region:** Western
7. **Regulatory Requirement:** 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 in 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 Alaska State agency has requested to waive the ABAWD time limit at 7 CFR 273.24 throughout the State for the 24-month period of January 1, 2017 through December 31, 2018. The State agency has supported its request based upon Alaska having an average unemployment rate 20 percent above the national average for the 36-month period of November 2013 through October 2016. During this 36-month period the national average unemployment rate was 5.5 percent; 20 percent above this is 6.6 percent. As detailed in the following table, Alaska's average unemployment rate for the selected 36-month period was 6.7 percent.

Bureau of Labor Statistics Data November 2013 – October 2016*		
	Unemployed	Labor Force Total
Alaska	877,472	13,089,708
Unemployment Rate	6.7%	
20% Above National Average Unemployment Rate	6.6%	

* Extracted from <http://www.bls.gov> on December 8, 2016

- 9. Action and reason for approval or denial:** The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) is approving the Alaska's State agency's request to waive the ABAWD time limit because the State meets the requirements for approval provided at 7 CFR 273.24(f) and relevant FNS guidance. The State qualifies for a 24-month waiver based upon having an average unemployment rate 20 percent above the national average for the 36-month period of November 2013 through October 2016.
- 10. Regulatory or legislative basis for action:** The waiver is approved pursuant to section 6(o) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008, as amended and 7 CFR 273.24(f).
- 11. Information required for an 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 as supporting documentation.
- 12. Implementation date and expiration date:** The waiver extension is effective from January 1, 2017 through December 31, 2018.
- 13. Limitation, if any, on regional office approval of like requests:** The waiver is limited to the Alaska State agency.
- 14. Date of national office action:** **DEC 27 2016**
- 15. Date of State agency's request:** November 30, 2016
- 16. Date of regional office transmittal of request:** December 5, 2016
- 17. State agency contact:**
Rachel Martinez
Rachel.Martinez@alaska.gov
(907) 465-3201
- 18. FNS regional contact:**
Shahdy Monemzadeh
Shahdy.Monemzadeh@fns.usda.gov
(415) 645-1923