



Food and Nutrition Service

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

October 23, 2025

Christina Davis
Chief of Policy & Program Development
Division of Public Assistance
Department of Health
Post Office Box 110640
Juneau, Alaska 99811-0640

RE: Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) – Alaska Request to Waive Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents Time Limit – Initial – Approval

Dear Chief Davis:

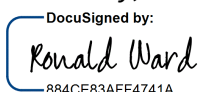
This is in response to the Alaska Department of Health's, (DOH) September 16, 2025, request to waive the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) time limit for able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWDs). The attached waiver response includes the approved areas, the supporting evidence used, and the conditions of approval.

The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) also reminds the State agency that it must measure the 3-year period and track ABAWDs on a continuous basis, even in areas under a waiver. The State agency must continue tracking so that the State agency will be ready to transition off the waiver when it expires and reintroduce the time limit.

FNS also reminds DOH of the clear expectation that SNAP participants who can work, do work. ABAWDs may fulfill the ABAWD work requirement in several ways including by engaging for at least 80 hours a month in a work program. The SNAP Employment and Training (E&T) program is one of many ways that ABAWDs can meet this requirement and helps SNAP participants gain skills and find work that moves them toward self-sufficiency. Connecting participants to Alaska's SNAP Employment and Training program supports our shared goal to lift millions of Americans out of dependency and into hopeful futures.

Please contact your Regional Office representative with any questions.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:

884CE83AFF4741A...
Ronald Ward

Acting Associate Administrator
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
Food and Nutrition Service

Enclosure

Enclosure

**ABLE-BODIED ADULTS WITHOUT DEPENDENTS (ABAWD)
WAIVER RESPONSE**

- 1. **Request Type:** Initial
- 2. **Statutory Citation:** Section 6(o) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008
- 3. **Regulatory Citation:** 7 CFR 273.24
- 4. **State:** Alaska
- 5. **Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) Region:** Western
- 6. **Requirement:** Section 6(o) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 and regulations at 7 CFR 273.24 provide that no individual 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) and 7 CFR 273.24 also provide 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 an unemployment rate of over 10 percent, or for non-contiguous States, has an unemployment rate 1.5 times the national average.
- 7. **Requested Area(s) and Support:** The State agency requested to waive the ABAWD time limit in 20 boroughs and census areas from November 1, 2025, to October 31, 2026.

The State agency supported its request based upon the 20 boroughs and census areas having an average unemployment rate 1.5 times the national average for the 3-month period of December 2024 through February 2025. During this period, the national average unemployment rate was 4.2 percent; 1.5 times that rate is 6.3 percent. The average unemployment rate for the requested areas was 6.3 percent or greater during the 3-month period (Table 1).

Table 1: Counties (Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data, December 2024 – February 2026)

County	Unemployment Rate
Bethel Census Area, AK	11.5%
Bristol Bay Borough, AK	9.9%

Chugach Census Area, AK	7.5%
Copper River Census Area, AK	12.7%
Denali Borough, AK	12.6%
Dillingham Census Area, AK	8.4%
Haines Borough, AK	11.8%
Hoonah-Angoon Census Area, AK	10.8%
Kenai Peninsula Borough, AK	6.3%
Kodiak Island Borough, AK	6.5%
Kusilvak Census Area, AK	17.5%
Lake and Peninsula Borough, AK	6.9%
Nome Census Area, AK	8.8%
Northwest Arctic Borough, AK	9.5%
Petersburg Borough	8.1%
Prince of Wales-Hyder Census Area, AK	9.1%
Skagway Municipality, AK	19.2%
Southeast Fairbanks Census Area, AK	6.9%
Yakutat Borough/city, AK	7.2%
Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area	11.5%

Data extracted from <http://www.bls.gov> on September 17, 2025.

- 8. FNS Action and Justification:** FNS is approving the State agency's request to waive the ABAWD time limit. The State agency's request meets the requirements for approval provided at 7 CFR 273.24(f) and relevant FNS guidance.
- 9. Authority:** The waiver is approved pursuant to section 6(o) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 and 7 CFR 273.24(f).
- 10. Implementation Date:** November 1, 2025
- 11. Expiration Date:** October 31, 2026
- 12. Information Required to Submit a Modification, Extension, or New Waiver:** To receive a modification, extension, or submit a new waiver to replace the current waiver, 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 and supporting documentation.
- 13. State Agency Contact Information:**
 Name: Seth Barnes
 Email: seth.barnes@alaska.gov

Name: Lydia Luchini

Email: Lydia.luchini@alaska.gov

14. FNS Regional Office Contact Information:

Name: Jacqueline Bourne

Phone: 415-293-3717

Email: jacqueline.bourne@usda.gov