



Food and Nutrition Service

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

March 30, 2026

Heather Miles
SNAP Manager
Department of Human Services
500 Summer St. NE
Salem, Oregon 97331

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

Dear SNAP Manager Miles:

This is in response to the Oregon Department of Human Services' (DHS) March 3, 2026, 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.

On November 18, 2025, the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) approved DHS' original request to waive the time limit in five reservation areas from December 1, 2025, through November 30, 2026. Then, on February 26, 2026, FNS notified the State agency that the previous waiver had remained in effect through its original expiration date of December 31, 2025. In response, the State agency requested to modify the current waiver implementation period to prevent waiver overlap. This modification postpones the waiver implementation period by one month, moving it from December 1, 2025, through November 30, 2026, to January 1, 2026, through December 31, 2026.

FNS 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 DHS 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 DHS' SNAP Training and Employment program (STEP) 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:

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Ronald Ward
Acting Associate Administrator
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
Food and Nutrition Service
U.S. Department of Agriculture

Enclosure

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**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:** Oregon
- 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 for non-contiguous States, has an unemployment rate 1.5 times the national average.
- 7. Requested Area(s) and Support:** The State agency originally requested to waive the time limit in the five reservation areas from December 1, 2025, through November 30, 2026. Once FNS notified the State agency that its terminated waiver remained in effect through its original expiration date of December 31, 2025, the State agency requested to implement the waiver from January 1, 2026, to December 31, 2026.

The State agency supported its request based upon five reservation areas having a 12-month average unemployment rate over 10 percent for the 12-month period of September 2024 through August 2025. The average unemployment rate for the requested counties was 10.3 percent or greater during the 12-month period (Table 1).

Table 1: Reservation Areas (Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data, September 2024 – August 2025)

Reservation Area	Unemployment Rate
Burns Paiute Indian Colony and Off-Reservation Trust Land	11.9%
Coquille Reservation and Off-Reservation Trust Land	10.3%
Cow Creek Reservation	11.7%
Klamath Reservation	33.0%
Siletz Reservation and Off-Reservation Trust Land	26.3%

Data extracted from <http://www.bls.gov> and <https://data.census.gov> on October 28, 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:** January 1, 2026
- 11. Expiration Date:** December 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: Antonio Heras-De-La-Luz
 Phone Number: 503-586-6324
 Email: antonio.heras-delaluz@odhs.oregon.gov
- 14. FNS Regional Office Contact Information:**
 Name: Jacqueline Bourne
 Phone: 415-293-3717
 Email: jacqueline.bourne@usda.gov