

October 15, 2008

2030027

SUBJECT: Washington Able-bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWD)
Waiver of 7 CFR 273.24

TO: Dennis Stewart, Director
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
Western Region

This is in response to your memorandum of August 25, 2008 submitting Washington State agency's request to modify and extend its waiver which exempts certain individuals from the work requirements of 7 CFR 273.24. The State based its determination of insufficient jobs on U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics data and Census 2000 data.

Our response approving the State's request is attached. If you have any questions, please contact Vicky Robinson at vicky.robinson@fns.usda.gov or at (703) 305-2476.

SIGNED

Angela Kline
Assistant Branch Chief
Certification Policy Branch
Program Development Division

Attachment(s)

E-mail distribution: CPB, ABAWD Waivers

WAIVER RESPONSE

1. **Waiver serial number:** 2030027
2. **Type of request:** Extension and Modification
3. **Primary regulation citation:** 7 CFR 273.24
4. **Secondary regulation citation:**
5. **State:** Washington
6. **Region:** Western
7. **Regulatory requirements:** 7 CFR 273.24 provides that no individual shall be eligible to participate in the Food Stamp Program as a member of any household if, during the preceding 36-month period, the individual received food stamp benefits for not less than 3 months (consecutive or otherwise), during which the individual did not work 20 hours or more per week, averaged monthly; did not participate in and comply with the requirements of a work program for 20 hours or more per week; did not participate in and comply with requirements of a program under Section 20 or a comparable program established by the State; or was exempt from these requirements.

7 CFR 273.24(f) also provides that, upon the request of a State agency, the Secretary may waive the applicability of the above provision 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. **Proposed alternative procedures:** The State agency is requesting to extend its ABAWD waiver in 37 counties that have been combined into one sub-region. The sub-region has an aggregate unemployment rate (UER) of at least 20 percent above the national average of 4.7 percent, or 5.6 percent, for the 24-month period of June 2005 through May 2007 as follows:

National Unemployment Rate (UER):

Labor Force	Unemployed	UER	20 percent
3,629,522,000	170,473,000	4.7	5.6

Sub-Region

County	Labor Force	Unemployed	UER
Adams	194,732	12,550	
Asotin	254,966	12,663	
Benton	2,034,838	115,160	
Chelan	957,155	50,521	
Clallam	714,568	42,768	
Clark	4,942,293	292,252	
Columbia	36,793	2,994	
Cowlitz	1,035,812	68,510	
Douglas	485,622	24,537	
Ferry	71,088	6,501	
Franklin	701,464	50,059	
Garfield	25,494	1,339	
Grant	933,449	62,262	
Grays Harbor	748,796	53,856	
Island	778,922	41,115	
Jefferson	327,378	16,690	
Kitsap	2,940,337	140,264	
Kittitas	468,844	24,862	
Klickitat	228,513	16,447	
Lewis	746,917	53,665	
Lincoln	112,916	6,516	
Mason	589,034	35,448	
Okanogan	500,920	33,339	
Pacific	219,257	14,791	
Pend Oreille	122,901	9,212	
Pierce	8,984,042	470,550	
San Juan	197,325	7,776	
Skagit	1,362,860	71,884	
Skamania	122,514	8,595	
Spokane	5,477,467	280,491	
Stevens	437,744	32,014	
Thurston	2,978,792	139,299	
Wahkiakum	39,287	2,601	
Walla Walla	693,415	37,707	
Whatcom	2,492,988	114,132	
Whitman	491,356	19,798	
Yakima	2,852,941	197,633	
Total	46,303,740	2,570,801	5.6

In addition, the State agency modified its waiver by requesting to add Muckleshoot Reservation within King County and the Tulalip Reservation in Snohomish County based on having an average unemployment rate of at least 20 percent above the national average of 4.7 percent, or 5.6 percent, for the 24-month period of June 2005 through May 2007 as follows:

Reservation Areas									
Tribal Area	Whole County Employed	Census Share Ratio- Employed	# of Employed	Whole County Unemployed	Census Share Ratio- Unemployed	# of Unemployed	Total Labor Force	Unemployment Rate	UER Percentage
Muckleshoot	23,998,693	0.0016627	39,903	1,034,387	0.0033268	3,441	43,344	0.079388	7.9
Tulalip	8,193,431	0.0137593	112,736	388,998	0.0212389	8,262	120,997	0.068283	6.8

9. **Action and reason for approval or denial:** We are approving the State agency's request in full. Able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWDs) who reside on the aforementioned counties will be exempt from work requirements based on high unemployment.
10. **Regulatory or legislative basis for action:** The waiver is approved pursuant to 7 CFR 273.24(f), which allows the Secretary to waive the applicability of the work requirement provision for any group of individuals in the State if the Secretary makes a determination that the area in which the individuals reside has insufficient jobs.
11. **Conditions and reasons:** None.
12. **Information required for extension:** To receive an extension the State agency must provide data for the affected areas indicating that there continue to be insufficient jobs for individuals subject to 7 CFR 273.24.
13. **Expiration date:** The waiver is approved for one year, effective October 1, 2008 through September 30, 2009.
14. **Limitation on regional office approval of like requests:** Approval of this waiver is limited to the Washington State agency.
15. **Quality control procedures:** N/A
16. **Date of national office action:** September 30, 2008.
17. **Date of State agency's request:** July 1, 2008.
18. **Date of regional office transmittal of request to national office:** August 25, 2008.
19. **Date of regional office transmittal of response to State agency:**
20. **Actual implementation date:**