JAY INSLEE
Governor

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PROCLAMATION BY THE GOVERNOR
AMENDING PROCLAMATIONS 20-05 and 20-63, et seq.

20-63.5
Department of Social and Health Services -
Family Emergency Assistance Program

WHEREAS, on February 29, 2020, I issued Proclamation 20-05, proclaiming a State of Emergency for all counties throughout Washington State of as a result of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) outbreak in the United States and confirmed person-to-person spread of COVID-19 in Washington State; and

WHEREAS, as a result of the continued worldwide spread of COVID-19, its significant progression in Washington State, and the high risk it poses to our most vulnerable populations, I have subsequently issued several amendatory proclamations, exercising my emergency powers under RCW 43.06.220 by prohibiting certain activities and waiving and suspending specified laws and regulations; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 disease, caused by a virus that spreads easily from person to person, which may result in serious illness or death and has been classified by the World Health Organization as a worldwide pandemic, has broadly spread throughout Washington State and remains a significant health risk to all of our people, especially members of our most vulnerable populations; and

WHEREAS, as a result of the global COVID-19 pandemic and its impacts on Washington State, many members of our workforce are suffering significant economic hardship and in some cases family financial resources are becoming severely limited; and

WHEREAS, as a result of the economic impacts of the global COVID-19 pandemic on Washington State, many families with children are receiving benefits under the Family Emergency Assistance Program, established by the Department of Social and Health Services pursuant to RCW 74.04.660; and

WHEREAS, Washington State individuals and families without children are also suffering significant economic hardship caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and require assistance, but individuals and families without children normally are not eligible to receive benefits under the Family Emergency Assistance Program; and

WHEREAS, under RCW 74.04.660(6), during a state of emergency the Governor is authorized to extend eligibility for benefits under the Family Emergency Assistance Program to individuals and families without children; and

WHEREAS, on March 18, 2020, I issued Proclamation 20-18 which, among other things, expanded eligibility for benefits under the Family Emergency Assistance Program to individuals and families without children; and

WHEREAS, the extension under Proclamation 20-18 of eligibility for benefits under the Family Emergency Assistance Program to individuals and families without children, subsequently has been incorporated into and extended by Proclamations 20-52 et seq.; and

WHEREAS, on July 9, 2020, I issued Proclamation 20-63, removing from 20-18 and 20-52 et seq., the specific provisions relating to expanded eligibility for benefits under the Family Emergency Assistance Program to individuals and families without children; and

WHEREAS, on July 30, 2020, under the provisions of RCW 43.06.220(4), the statutory waivers and suspensions of Proclamation 20-63, et seq., were extended by the leadership of the Washington State Senate and House of Representatives until the termination of the COVID-19 State of Emergency or September 1, 2020, and which I acknowledged in Proclamation 20-63.1; and

WHEREAS, on August 27, 2020, leadership in three of the four legislative caucuses determined that the contents of this order do not require legislative approval under the provisions of RCW 43.06.220(4), which I acknowledged when extending the provisions therein in Proclamation 20-63.2; and

WHEREAS, on December 7, 2020, under the provisions of RCW 43.06.220(4), the statutory waivers and suspensions of Proclamation 20-63, et seq., were extended by the leadership of the Washington State Senate and House of Representatives until the termination of the COVID-19 State of Emergency or 11:59 p.m. on December 21, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Health indicates that as of the date of this Proclamation, COVID-19 cases and associated deaths continue to increase, demonstrating the ongoing, present threat of this lethal disease; and

WHEREAS, the worldwide COVID-19 pandemic and its progression in Washington State continue to threaten the life and health of our people as well as the economy of Washington State, and remain a public disaster affecting life, health, property or the public peace; and

WHEREAS, the Washington State Department of Health continues to maintain a Public Health Incident Management Team in coordination with the State Emergency Operations Center and other supporting state agencies to manage the public health aspects of the incident; and

WHEREAS, the Washington State Military Department Emergency Management Division, through the State Emergency Operations Center, continues coordinating resources across state government to support the Department of Health and local health officials in alleviating the impacts to people, property, and infrastructure, and continues coordinating with the Department of Health in assessing the impacts and long-term effects of the incident on Washington State and its people.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jay Inslee, Governor of the state of Washington, as a result of the above-noted situation, pursuant to RCW 43.06.220(2)(c) and RCW 74.04.660(6), continue to authorize and direct the Secretary of the Department of Social and Health Services to expand eligibility for the

Family Emergency Assistance Program to include individuals and families without children. This authorization and order is in effect until 11:59 p.m. on December 21, 2020, or the end of the declared COVID-19 pandemic state of emergency, whichever comes first.

I again direct that the plans and procedures of the *Washington State Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan* be implemented throughout state government. State agencies and departments are directed to continue utilizing state resources and doing everything reasonably possible to support implementation of the *Washington State Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan* and to assist affected political subdivisions in an effort to respond to and recover from the COVID-19 pandemic.

As a result of this event, I continue to order into active state service the organized militia of Washington State to include the National Guard and the State Guard, or such part thereof as may be necessary in the opinion of The Adjutant General to address the circumstances described above, to perform such duties as directed by competent authority of the Washington State Military Department in addressing the outbreak. Additionally, I continue to direct the Department of Health, the Washington State Military Department Emergency Management Division, and other agencies to identify and provide appropriate personnel for conducting necessary and ongoing incident related assessments.

Violators of this order may be subject to criminal penalties pursuant to RCW 43.06.220(5).

Signed and sealed with the official seal of the state of Washington on this 8th day of December, A.D., Two Thousand and Twenty at Olympia, Washington.

By:

/s/
Jay Inslee, Governor

BY THE GOVERNOR:

/s/
Secretary of State