

February 29, 2008

970225

SUBJECT: FSP – Alabama – Request to Waive 7 CFR 273.24

TO: Peggy Fouts, Regional Director
Food Stamp Program
Southeast Region

This is in response to the Alabama State Agency's request to for an extension and modification of its current waiver exempting individuals residing in certain areas from the work requirements of 7 CFR 273.24 based on insufficient jobs. The States agency's request is based on data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Our response approving the State's request is attached. If you have any questions, please contact Larry Tropp by email at larry.tropp@fns.usda.gov or by telephone at 703-305-2504.

/S/

Harriet Kornegay
Assistant Branch Chief
Certification Policy Branch
Program Development Division

FINAL:FNS:FSP:PDD:CPB:LTROPP:jragan:02/29/08:305-2519
DIR:I:WAIVERS:FY2008:970225 AL ABAWD 2008 ext and mod

WAIVER RESPONSE

1. **Waiver Serial Number:** 970225
2. **Type of Request:** Modification and Extension
3. **Primary regulation citation:** 7 CFR 273.24
4. **Secondary regulation citation:** N/A
5. **State:** Alabama
6. **Region:** Southeast
7. **Regulatory Requirement:** Under 7 CFR 273.24(b) individuals are not 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; participate in and comply with the requirements of a work program for 20 hours or more per week; or participate in and comply with requirements of a program under Section 20 or a comparable program established by the State.

Under 7 CFR 273.24(f), upon the request of a State agency, the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) may waive the applicability of the above provision for any group of individuals in the State if the FNS 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. **Description of proposed alternative procedures:** The Alabama State Agency is requesting a waiver for contiguous regions and sub-regions, and one city, that qualify based on aggregate average unemployment rates of 5.6 percent, which is at least 20 percent above the national average during October 2005 through September 2007.

Sub-Region 1 of Region 5:

Area	Total labor force	Total number of unemployed	Unemployment Rate
Bullock County	89966	7332	8.1
Macon County	214690	10230	4.8
Total for Sub-Region	304656	17562	5.8

Sub-Region 2 of Region 5:

Area	Total labor force	Total number of unemployed	Unemployment Rate
Butler County	225468	11818	5.2
Lowndes County	121309	7886	6.5
Total for Sub-Region	346777	19704	5.7

Region 6:

Area	Total labor force	Total number of unemployed	Unemployment Rate
Choctaw County	129187	6556	5.1
Clarke County	243628	13796	5.7
Conecuh County	125017	6418	5.1
Dallas County	383860	28406	7.4
Marengo County	212734	8888	4.2
Monroe County	222709	12339	5.5
Perry County	86248	6530	7.6
Sumter County	116805	6914	5.9
Washington County	167047	8829	5.3
Wilcox County	85883	6830	8
Total for Sub-Region	1773118	105506	6.0

Area	Total labor force	Total number of unemployed	Unemployment Rate
Prichard City	235120	13175	5.6

- 9. Action and reason for approval for denial:** We are approving the State agency's request to modify and extend its waiver to exempt ABAWDS who live in the requested counties from the work requirements of 7 CFR 273.24. Although the State agency mentioned that some of the areas may qualify for exemptions based on their individual labor markets, our approval is based on the unemployment rates for the designated multi-county areas.
- 10. Regulatory or legislative basis for action:** The waiver is approved under the authority of 7 CFR 273.24(f), which allows FNS to waive the applicability of the work requirement provision for any group of individuals in the State if FNS makes a determination that the area in which the individuals reside has insufficient jobs.
- 11. Conditions and reasons:** N/A
- 12. Information required for extension:** To receive an extension, the State agency must provide data indicating that there are insufficient jobs in the affected areas.

13. **Expiration date:** This waiver is effective April 1, 2008 and will expire on March 31, 2009.
14. **Limitation, if any, on regional office approval of like requests:** This waiver is limited to the Alabama State Agency.
15. **Quality control procedures:** N/A
16. **Date of national office action:**
17. **Date of State agency's request:**
18. **Date of regional office transmittal of request:** December 20, 2007
19. **Date of regional office transmittal of response to State agency:**
20. **Actual implementation date:**