

970225

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

TO: Peggy Fouts
Regional Director
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
Southeast Regional Office

This is in response to the Alabama Department of Human Resources' request of January 14, 2009 to exempt Able Bodied Adults Without Dependents from the work provisions of 7 CFR 273.24 based upon an insufficient number of jobs in 31 counties and one city.

Our detailed response approving the State agency request is attached. If you have any questions, please contact Patrick J. Lucrezio at Patrick.Lucrezio@fns.usda.gov or at (703) 305-2498.

Sincerely,

/s/

Angela Kline
Assistant Branch Chief
Certification Policy Branch
Program Development Division

Attachment

E-mail distribution: CPB, ABAWD Waivers

FINAL:FNS:SNAP:PDD:CPB:PLucrezio:01/27/09
DIR:I:CPB:WAIVERS:FY2009:970225 – AL ABAWD Waiver – Ext. and Mod.
Approval

WAIVER RESPONSE

1. **Waiver serial number:** 970225
2. **Type of request:** Modification and Extension
3. **Primary regulation citation, if any:** 7 CFR 273.24
4. **Secondary regulation citation, if any:**
5. **State:** Alabama
6. **Region:** Southeast
7. **Regulatory requirements:** 7 CFR 273.24 provides that no individual shall be eligible to participate in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) as a member of any household if, during the preceding 36-month period, the individual received SNAP 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 received benefits because they were 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 procedures:**

The State agency requests to exempt individuals residing in a region of Alabama consisting of thirty-one contiguous counties. This sub-region is eligible based on its aggregate average unemployment rate which was at least 20 percent above the national average for the 24 months of August 2006 to July 2008. The national average unemployment rate plus 20 percent for this time period was 5.7 percent.

Region:

Area	Unemployment Rate, AUG 2006 – JUL 2008	Area	Unemployment Rate, AUG 2006 – JUL 2008
Barbour County	6	Lowndes County	7.1
Bullock County	8.4	Macon County	5.1
Butler County	5.8	Marengo County	5
Chambers County	7.3	Marion County	4.9
Choctaw County	5.7	Monroe County	6.4
Clarke County	6	Perry County	8.3
Clay County	4.9	Pickens County	4.9
Conecuh County	6.1	Pike County	3.6
Coosa County	5.5	Randolph County	4.8
Crenshaw County	3.9	Russell County	5.7
Dallas County	7.9	Sumter County	6.1
Escambia County	4.9	Tallapoosa County	5
Greene County	5.7	Washington County	5.7
Hale County	4.9	Wilcox County	9.3
Henry County	5.1	Winston County	5.3
Lamar County	5.5	Total for region	5.7

In addition, the State is requesting to exempt residents in Prichard city based on having an average unemployment rate of at least 20 percent above the national average during the August 2006 – July 2008 period.

Area	Unemployment Rate, AUG 2006 – JUL 2008
Prichard city	5.9

- 9 **Action and reason for approval or denial:** We are approving the State agency's request in full. Able-bodied adults without dependents in the aforementioned areas will be exempt from work requirements based on insufficient jobs. Total number of counties requested and approved is 31. In addition, Prichard city will be exempt based upon its unemployment rate of 5.9 percent.
- 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:** As requested, the waiver is approved for one year, effective April 1, 2009 to March 31, 2010.
- 14 **Limitation, if any, on regional office approval of like requests:** Approval of this waiver is limited to the Alabama State Agency.
- 15 **Quality control procedures:** None.
- 16 **Date of national office action:**
- 17 **Date of State agency's request:** January 14, 2009
- 18 **Date of regional office transmittal of request:** January 21, 2009
- 19 **Date of regional office transmittal of response to State agency:**