

February 14, 2008

2060041

SUBJECT: FSP – California – ABAWD Waiver 2060041

TO: Dennis Stewart
Regional Director
Food Stamp Program
Western Region

This is in response to your February 6, 2008, memorandum to Arthur Foley transmitting California's request to modify and extend for 1 year its waiver number 2060041 covering Able Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWDs). This waiver would cover 52 California counties having an average unemployment rate at least 20 percent above the national average unemployment rate during a recent (November 2005 through October 2007) 24-month period. We are approving California's waiver request for the 52 counties listed in the attachment, and are terminating waiver 2070038 as obsolete.

One item we would like to note, however, is that the computation of the national average unemployment rate performed by the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities (CBPP) incorrectly relied on seasonally adjusted national unemployment rates for the 24-month period. Per FNS guidelines, "not seasonally adjusted data" should be used in collecting local area data and, by extension, should also be used in gathering data for the national rate. We will bring this matter to CBPP's attention. In addition, please advise us should any counties in California choose to opt out of the waiver.

Should you have any questions concerning this issue, please contact Patrick Lucrezio at Patrick.Lucrezio@fns.usda.gov or by phone at (703) 305-2498.

/S/

Harriet Kornegay
Acting Branch Chief
Certification Policy Branch
Program Development Division

Attachment

cc: All Regions (except WRO) w/Attachment
Dan Wilusz, QC, PAD w/Attachment
Bob Dalrymple, ORNA w/Attachment

FINAL:FNS:FSP:PDD:CPB:PLucrezio:02/08/2008:jragan:02/14/08:305-2519
File:I:CPB:Waivers:FY2008:2060041 California ABAWD Waiver Extension

Symbol	Surname	Date	Symbol	Surname	Date

WAIVER RESPONSE

1. **Waiver Serial Number:** 2060041
2. **Type of Request:** Extension and Modification
3. **Primary regulation citation:** 7 CFR 273.24
4. **Secondary regulation citation:** N/A
5. **State:** California
6. **Region:** Western
7. **Regulatory Requirement:** 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 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. **Description of proposed alternative procedures:** The 3-month time-limit for ABAWDs would not apply in the waived jurisdictions, for the reasons that are explained in item 9.
9. **Action and reason for approval or denial:** We are approving the waiver as requested to cover 52 Counties in California. Fifty-one of the counties are waived as having an aggregate unemployment 20 percent above the national average, and one county is being waived as having an unemployment rate 20 percent above the national average. During the November 2005 through October 2007 period, the unadjusted national unemployment rate plus 20 percent was 5.6 percent.

Combined Area (Northern and Central Regions):

Area	Unemployment Rate	Area	Unemployment Rate
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	November 2005- October 2007		November 2005- October 2007
Alameda County	4.5	Nevada County	4.6
Alpine County	7.0	Placer County	4.4
Amador County	5.6	Plumas County	7.9
Butte County	6.4	Sacramento County	5.0
Calaveras County	6.1	San Benito County	7.0
Colusa County	12.7	San Francisco County/City	4.3
Contra Costa County	4.4	San Joaquin County	7.7
Del Norte County	7.2	San Luis Obispo County	4.1
El Dorado County	4.7	San Mateo County	3.8
Fresno County	8.3	Santa Barbara County	4.2
Glenn County	8.4	Santa Clara County	4.6
Humboldt County	5.7	Santa Cruz County	5.8
Inyo County	4.7	Shasta County	6.9
Kern County	7.8	Sierra County	7.7
Kings County	8.6	Siskiyou County	8.3
Lake County	7.4	Solano County	5.0
Lassen County	8.0	Sonoma County	4.1
Madera County	7.2	Stanislaus County	8.2
Marin County	3.6	Sutter County	9.2
Mariposa County	5.8	Tehama County	6.8
Mendocino County	5.4	Trinity County	10.0
Merced County	9.6	Tulare County	8.8
Modoc County	7.8	Tuolumne County	6.1
Mono County	4.5	Yolo County	5.4
Monterey County	7.1	Yuba County	9.1
Napa County	4.0	Total for Region	5.6

In addition, the State is requesting to exempt residents in Imperial County based on having an average unemployment rate of at least 20 percent above the national average during November 2005 through October 2007 period. The national average plus 20 percent rate was 5.6 percent.

Area	Unemployment Rate, Nov. 2005 through Oct. 2007
Imperial County	16.2

10. **Regulatory or legislative basis for action:** This waiver is approved pursuant to 7 CFR 273.24(f)(3)(i), (ii), and (iii).
11. **Conditions and reasons:** None.

12. **Information required for extension:** To receive an extension the State agency must provide data or other information as described in 273.24(f)(2) and (f)(3). If California wishes to receive an extension based on unemployment rates, they must provide us with all supporting documentation, including spreadsheets in digital form.
13. **Expiration date:** This waiver is approved for one year effective from May 1, 2008 through April 30, 2009. In addition, as a result of this waiver request and approval, California waiver number 2070038 is obsolete.
14. **Limitation, if any, on regional office approval of like requests:** This waiver is limited to the California Department of Social Services.
15. **Quality control procedures:** None.
16. **Date of national office action:**
17. **Date of State agency's request:** January 24, 2008.
18. **Date of regional office transmittal of request:** February 6, 2008.
19. **Date of regional office transmittal of response to State agency:**
20. **Actual implementation date:**