

August 05, 2005

970304

SUBJECT: FSP – Connecticut Request for Modification of Waiver 970304

TO: Mary Ann Ferris, Regional Director  
Food Stamp Program  
Northeast Region

This is in response to the Connecticut State Agency's request for a third modification of waiver 970304 to include an exemption for individuals residing in the Willimantic-Danielson Labor Market Area (LMA), comprised of the towns of Brooklyn, Chaplin, Eastford, Hampton, Killingly, Plainfield, Pomfret, Putnam, Scotland, Sterling, Thompson, Windham and Woodstock from the work requirements of 7 CFR 273.24 based on insufficient jobs to provide employment for the affected individuals.

Our response is attached. Please contact Celeste Perkins of my staff at 703-305-2507 if you have any questions.

/s/

Harriet Kornegay  
Assistant Branch Chief  
Certification Policy Branch  
Program Development Division

FINAL:USDA:FNS:FSP:PDD:CPB:CPERKINS:08/05/05:je  
FILE: Connecticut ABAWD  
DIR:I:WAIVERS: 970304 – CT ABAWD (3rd Mod.2005)

## WAIVER RESPONSE

1. **Waiver serial number:** 970304
2. **Type of request:** 3rd Modification
3. **Primary regulation citation:** 7 CFR 273.24
4. **Secondary regulation citation:**
5. **State:** Connecticut
6. **Region:** NERO
7. **Regulatory requirements:** The regulations at 7 CFR 273.24 provide 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; or did not participate in and comply with requirements of a program under Section 20 or a comparable program established by the State.

The regulations at 7 CFR 273.24(f) also provide that, 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 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 Connecticut State Agency is requesting a third modification of waiver 970304, to exempt individuals residing in Towns of Brooklyn, Chaplin, Eastford, Hampton, Killingly, Plainfield, Pomfret, Putnam, Scotland, Sterling, Thompson, Windham and Woodstock from the regulatory requirements listed above based on an unemployment rate greater than 20 percent above the national average for the period of April 2003 through March 2005. In support of its request the State agency **did not** provide labor market data for all of these areas. The State provided labor market data for the **Willimantic** area only.

- 9. Action and reason for approval or denial:** We are denying the Connecticut State Agency's request for a third modification of waiver 970304 to include Willimantic-Danielson Labor Market Area (LMA), comprised of the towns of Brooklyn, Chaplin, Eastford, Hampton, Killingly, Plainfield, Pomfret, Putnam, Scotland, Sterling, Thompson, Windham and Woodstock because these towns combined unemployment rate of 4.6 does not exceed the national average unemployment rate by 20 percent (6.8) for the requested 24-month period of March 2003 through February 2005 based on information available from the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL), Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS).

**Unemployment Rate  
April 2003 through March 2005**

| <b>Towns</b>      | <b>Period</b>        | <b>Town<br/>Labor Force</b> | <b>Town<br/>Unemployment</b> | <b>Unemployment Rate</b> |
|-------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>Brooklyn</b>   | <b>04/03 – 03/05</b> | <b>90229</b>                | <b>3943</b>                  | <b>4.3%</b>              |
| <b>Chaplin</b>    | <b>04/03 – 03/05</b> | <b>33489</b>                | <b>1665</b>                  | <b>5.0%</b>              |
| <b>Eastford</b>   | <b>04/03 – 03/05</b> | <b>408330</b>               | <b>22405</b>                 | <b>3.8%</b>              |
| <b>Hampton</b>    | <b>04/03 – 03/05</b> | <b>27417</b>                | <b>1353</b>                  | <b>4.9%</b>              |
| <b>Killingly</b>  | <b>04/03 – 03/05</b> | <b>219111</b>               | <b>15250</b>                 | <b>7.0%</b>              |
| <b>Plainfield</b> | <b>04/03 – 03/05</b> | <b>200305</b>               | <b>13202</b>                 | <b>6.6%</b>              |
| <b>Pomfret</b>    | <b>04/03 – 03/05</b> | <b>209188</b>               | <b>53187</b>                 | <b>3.9%</b>              |
| <b>Putnam</b>     | <b>04/03 – 03/05</b> | <b>116059</b>               | <b>6653</b>                  | <b>5.7%</b>              |
| <b>Scotland</b>   | <b>04/03 – 03/05</b> | <b>22380</b>                | <b>567</b>                   | <b>2.5%</b>              |
| <b>Sterling</b>   | <b>04/03 – 03/05</b> | <b>43168</b>                | <b>2417</b>                  | <b>5.6%</b>              |
| <b>Thompson</b>   | <b>04/03 – 03/05</b> | <b>120044</b>               | <b>6764</b>                  | <b>5.6%</b>              |
| <b>Windham</b>    | <b>04/03 – 03/05</b> | <b>265586</b>               | <b>1772</b>                  | <b>6.7%</b>              |

|              |                      |                |              |            |
|--------------|----------------------|----------------|--------------|------------|
| Woodstock    | 04/03 – 03/05        | 102782         | 4109         | 4.0%       |
|              |                      |                |              |            |
| <b>TOTAL</b> | <b>04/03 – 03/05</b> | <b>1316162</b> | <b>60582</b> | <b>4.6</b> |

Source: BLS

**National Unemployment Rate for 03/03-02/05: 5.7%**  
**20% above the National Unemployment Rate: 6.8%**

The above statistical data used to make our decision was based on information available from the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL), Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) for the requested 24-month period of April 2003 through March 2005.

10. **Regulatory or legislative basis for action:** This waiver is denied pursuant to 7 CFR 273.24(f), which allows FNS to waive the applicability of the work requirement provision in 7 CFR 273.24 for any group of individuals in the State if FNS makes a determination that the area in which the individuals reside has an unemployment rate over 10 percent, or does not have a sufficient number of jobs to provide employment for the affected individuals as provided for at 7 CFR 273.24(f)(3)(iii).
11. **Conditions and reasons:**
12. **Information required for extension:**
13. **Expiration date:**
14. **Limitation, if any, on regional office approval of like requests:**
15. **Quality control procedures:**
16. **Date of national office action:**
17. **Date of State agency's request:** June 17, 2005
18. **Date of regional office transmittal of request to national office:** July 8, 2005
19. **Date of regional office transmittal of response to State agency:**