

April 24, 2006

SUBJECT: FSP – Connecticut ABAWD Waivers nos. 970304 and 2060035

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

This is in response to Jane DiBiasio's memorandum of March 9, 2006, forwarding the Connecticut State Agency's request for an extension modification of Waiver 970304 which from the work requirements of 7 CFR 273.24 based on insufficient jobs to provide employment for the affected individuals. According to the memorandum the State agency has notified your office that it is requesting a 2-year approval period for this waiver.

We are approving Connecticut State Agency's request which would exempt the residents of all of the cities in the State designated as labor surplus areas (LSAs) by the Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration (DOLETA) for Fiscal Year 2006 as well as residents of the Waterbury Metropolitan New England City and Town Area (NECTA) and the Willimantic Micropolitan NECTA based on an unemployment rate greater than 20 percent above the national average for the period of December 2003 through November 2005 for the NECTAs. With the exception of Bridgeport, Hartford and New Britain, all of which qualify for 2-year waivers, based on LSA designation for two consecutive fiscal years, the areas included in the waiver request are approved for a period of one year. As we indicate in the waiver response, because of our policy requiring that areas be considered either individually or as part of multi-area regions, but not as both, we are not approving 2-year exemptions for the city of Waterbury and the town of Killingly because they are included in the above-mentioned NECTAs although both jurisdictions were designated as LSAs for two consecutive fiscal years and would qualify for a 2-year waiver if considered individually. The approval for the areas eligible for 2-year exemptions is designated as a separate waiver under no. 2060035.

Our response is attached. Please contact Larry Tropp of my staff at 703-305-2504 if you have any questions.

/s/

Patrick Waldron
Branch Chief
Certification Policy Branch
Program Development Division

cc: All Regions (except NERO) w/attachments
PAD-QC w/attachments
Bob Dalrymple – OANE w/attachments
David Young w/attachments

USDA:FNS:FSP:PDD:CPB:LTropp
FILE: Connecticut ABAWD
DIR:I:WAIVERS: FY 2006:970304 and 2060035 – CT ABAWD 2006 ext:so

Symbol	Surname	Date	Symbol	Surname	Date

WAIVER RESPONSE

1. **Waiver serial number:** 970304 and 2060035
2. **Type of request:** Extensions and 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 an extension of and modification of waiver 970304, to exempt resident of the Cities of Bridgeport, East Hartford, Hartford, Killingly, New Britain, and New Haven the regulatory requirements of 7 CFR 273.24, based on the designation of those cities as labor surplus areas (LSAs) by the Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration (DOLETA) for Fiscal Year 2006. In addition, the State agency is requesting exemption for residents of 21 towns included in the Waterbury Metropolitan New England City and Town Area (NECTA) and the Willimantic Micropolitan NECTA based on

an unemployment rate greater than 20 percent above the national average for the period of December 2003 through November 2005 for the NECTAs.

According to your most recent transmittal letter the State agency has requested a 2-year approval period for this waiver request. We assume that the State agency is requesting the 2-year waiver for those areas that have been designated as LSAs for both FY 2005 and FY 2006.

9. **Action and reason for approval or denial:** We are approving the Connecticut State Agency's request for an exemption from the work requirements of 7 CFR 273.24 for residents of the Cities of Bridgeport, East Hartford, Hartford, New Britain, and New Haven based on their designation as LSAs for FY 2006. Because Bridgeport, Hartford and New Britain have been designated as LSAs for two consecutive fiscal years we are approving a 2-year waiver, designated as waiver no. 2060035 for those areas. Although Waterbury and Killingly would also qualify for 2-year waivers if considered separately, because they are included in the multi-area NECTAs described below, we are not considering them as a separate entities, but rather as part of the multi-area regions. This is based on our policy requiring that areas be considered either individually or as part of multi-area regions, but not as both.

We also approving exemptions for residents of the towns of Beacon Falls, Middlebury, Naugatuck, Prospect, Waterbury, Watertown and Wolcott based on the inclusion in the Waterbury Metropolitan NECTA and the Willimantic Micropolitan NECTA which includes the towns of Brooklyn, Chaplin, Eastford, Hampton, Killingly, Plainfield, Putnam, Scotland, Sterling, Thompson, Windham and Woodstock, based on their based on their unemployment rate exceeding the average U.S. employment rate by 20 percent for the 24-month period ending November 30, 2005.

**Unemployment Rate
December 2003 through November 2005**

Area	Total Labor Force	Unemployment	Unemployment Rate
Waterbury Metropolitan NECTA	2,390,340	152,799	6.4%
Willimantic Micropolitan NECTA	273,304	17,669	6.5

Source: BLS

National Unemployment Rate for 12/03-11/05: 5.3%
20% above the National Unemployment Rate: 6.4%

The above statistical data used by Connecticut was based on information available from the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL), Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). Connecticut also submitted spreadsheets to demonstrate these statistics.

10. **Regulatory or legislative basis for action:** This waiver is approved 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:** NA
12. **Information required for extension:** To receive an extension the State agency must provide verifiable data as outlined in 7 CFR 273.24(f) indicating that there are insufficient jobs in the affected areas. Such data can be found on the State DOL or Federal DOL BLS web sites.
13. **Expiration date:** This modification of waiver no. 970304 will be effective May 1, 2006 and will expire on April 30, 2007. Waiver no. 2060035, which includes the cities of Bridgeport, New Britain and Hartford is also effective May 1, 2006, and will expire on April 30, 2008.
14. **Limitation, if any, on regional office approval of like requests:** This waiver is limited to the Connecticut State Agency.
15. **Quality control procedures:** There is no special quality control procedures needed in conjunction with this waiver.
16. **Date of national office action:**
17. **Date of State agency's request:** January 31, 2006
18. **Date of regional office transmittal of request to national office:** March 9, 2006
19. **Date of regional office transmittal of response to State agency:**
20. **Actual implementation**