

March 6, 2006

970134

SUBJECT: FSP – Florida – Request to Waive 7 CFR 273.24 – 2-Year Extension

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

This is a follow-up to our memorandum of July 25, 2005, approving (with modifications) the Florida State agency's request for an extension of waiver no. 970134 exempting individuals locating in certain areas from the work requirements of 7 CFR 273.24. Although the State agency had requested a 2-year approval period (through September 30, 2007), pursuant to our standard approval time-frame for ABAWD waivers, we approved the waiver for a 1- year period running from October 1, 2005 through September 30, 2006. The State agency had requested a 2-year timeframe for approval of the waiver because the budget and fiscal planning used by in its Food Stamp Employment and Training Program (FSET) is part based on the whether areas where the program will be operated are subject to or exempt from the work requirements of 7 CFR 273.24.

In response to the letter of September 2, 2005, from the Florida State Agency we have reconsidered our previous position and have determined that the State presented reasonable justification for a 2-year approval period and are granting the State's request to extend the waiver through September 30, 2007. In addition to the State's rationale that a 2-year approval period would facilitate advance planning for its FSET program, we have also determined that the overwhelming majority of the areas included in the State's waiver conform to the criteria described in our memorandum of February 3, 2006 to all regional food stamp program directors authorizing 2-year approval periods for ABAWD waivers, specifically a history of insufficient jobs for a period greater than years prior to the request. We wish to emphasize that our decision authorizing a 2-year approval for a very small number of areas that did not strictly conform to the criteria of the February 3 memorandum should be considered an exception to the policy articulated in the memorandum.

If you have any questions, please contact Larry Tropp of my staff via email or telephone at (703) 305-2504.

/s/

Patrick Waldron
Chief
Certification Policy Branch
Program Development Division

cc: Bob Dalrymple
Mike DePiro, OANE
Civil Rights

FINAL:USDA:FNS:FSP:PDD:CPB:LTROPP:3/6/06:so

FILE:I:CPB:Waivers:FY 2006/970134 FL ABAWD 2005 Extension (FY 2006 2-year extension):\

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