

April 29, 2005

970088

SUBJECT: FSP - Georgia - Request to Waive 7 CFR 273.24

TO: Charlie Simmons, Regional Director  
Food Stamp Program  
Southeast Region

This is in response to the Georgia State Agency's request to continue to exempt individuals residing in 33 counties and 3 cities from the work requirements of 7 CFR 273.24 based on insufficient jobs. In addition, the State agency is requesting to modify its waiver by adding 8 counties and by combining certain counties into sub-regions based on their service delivery areas within the State. These sub-regions exclude the counties of Atkinson and Greene and the cities of Atlanta, East Point, and LaGrange, which are on the 2005 LSA list.

Our response is attached. If you have any questions, please contact Vicky Robinson at (703) 305-2476.

/s/

Patrick Waldron  
Branch Chief  
Certification Policy Branch  
Program Development Division

Attachments

cc: ALL RO w/Attachment (except SERO)  
John Knaus – w/Attachment  
Bob Dalrymple - OAE w/Attachment  
Kate Fink - OAE w/Attachment  
Civil Rights w/Attachment

FINAL: USDA:FNS:FSP:PDD:CPB:VRobinson:4-21-05:so

FILE: ABAWDS

DIR: I:CPB/Waivers/FY2005:970088 GA ext., mod. & memo

## WAIVER RESPONSE

1. **Waiver Serial Number:** 970088
2. **Type of Request:** Extension & Modification
3. **Primary regulation citation:** 7 CFR 273.24
4. **Secondary regulation citation:** N/A
5. **State:** Georgia
6. **Region:** Southeast
7. **Regulatory Requirement:** Under 7 CFR 273.24(b), an individual is not 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; participate in and comply with the requirements of a work program for 20 hours or more per week; or participate in and comply with requirements of a program under Section 20 or a comparable program established by the State.

Under 7 CFR 273.24(f), upon the request of a State agency, FNS may waive the applicability of the above provision 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 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:** Georgia is requesting to continue to extend its current ABAWD waiver for 33 counties and 3 cities based on insufficient jobs. The State agency is also requesting to add the 8 counties of Spalding, Glascock, Jenkins, Washington, Marion, Laurens, Wilcox, and Ben Hill. Finally, the State is requesting to combine certain counties into areas (called sub-regions) based on their service delivery areas within the State. The areas that are not included in these sub-regions are the counties of Atkinson and Greene and the cities of Atlanta, East Point, and LaGrange, which are on the 2005 LSA list.

The areas listed below have an average unemployment rate of at least 20 percent above the national average of 5.9 percent, or 7.1 percent, for CY 2002-2003 based on data obtained from the Department of Labor.

The combined areas (sub-regions) are as follows:

**Sub-region of Service Delivery Region 4:**

Area	Unemployment Rate, CY 2002-2003	Area	Unemployment Rate, CY 2002-2003
Lamar County	7.4	Spalding County	6.8
Meriwether County	7.2	Upson County	9.0
		<b>Total for sub-region</b>	<b>7.4</b>

**Sub-region of Service Delivery Region 7:**

Area	Unemployment Rate, CY 2002-2003	Area	Unemployment Rate, CY 2002-2003
Burke County	9.6	McDuffie County	7.6
Glascock County	5.5	Screven County	6.5
Hancock County	8.7	Taliaferro County	10.4
Jefferson County	9.9	Warren County	13.0
Jenkins County	5.7	Washington County	5.5
Lincoln County	10.1	Wilkes County	8.6
		<b>Total for sub-region</b>	<b>8.1</b>

**Sub-region A of Service Delivery Region 8:**

Area	Unemployment Rate, CY 2002-2003	Area	Unemployment Rate, CY 2002-2003
Crisp County	6.4	Macon County	8.5
Dooly County	6.7	<b>Total for sub-region</b>	<b>7.1</b>

**Sub-region B of Service Delivery Region 8:**

Area	Unemployment Rate, CY 2002-2003	Area	Unemployment Rate, CY 2002-2003
Chattahoochee County	8.0	Randolph County	8.7
Marion County	5.8	Stewart County	5.9
		<b>Total for sub-region</b>	<b>7.2</b>

**Service Delivery Region 9:**

Area	Unemployment Rate, CY 2002-2003	Area	Unemployment Rate, CY 2002-2003
Appling County	8.7	Telfair County	10.2
Emanuel County	6.5	Toombs County	7.7
Jeff Davis County	10.3	Treutlen County	7.1
Johnson County	8.2	Wheeler County	7.6
Laurens County	5.5	Wilcox County	5.9
Montgomery County	7.3	<b>Total for sub-region</b>	<b>7.2</b>

**Sub-region of Service Delivery Region 10:**

Area	Unemployment Rate, CY 2002-2003	Area	Unemployment Rate, CY 2002-2003
Calhoun County	6.7	Terrell County	8.3
Early County	6.9	<b>Total for sub-region</b>	<b>7.4</b>

**Sub-region of Service Delivery Region 11:**

Area	Unemployment Rate, CY 2002-2003	Area	Unemployment Rate, CY 2002-2003
Ben Hill County	6.5	Turner County	8.4
		<b>Total for sub-region</b>	<b>7.2</b>

9. **Action and reason for approval or denial.** We are approving the State Agency's request in full. Under the waiver residents of the following 41 counties and 3 cities have been designated as not having a sufficient number of jobs:

<b>Counties</b>			
Appling	Atkinson	Ben Hill	Burke
Calhoun	Chattahoochee	Crisp	Dooly
Early	Emanuel	Glascok	Greene
Hancock	Jeff Davis	Jefferson	Jenkins
Johnson	Lamar	Laurens	Lincoln
Macon	Marion	McDuffie	Meriwether
Montgomery	Randolph	Screven	Spalding
Stewart	Taliaferro	Telfair	Terrell
Toombs	Treutlen	Turner	Upson
Warren	Washington	Wilcox	Wilkes
Wheeler			
<b>Cities</b>			

Atlanta	East Point	LaGrange
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10. **Regulatory or legislative basis for action:** The waiver is approved under the authority of 7 CFR 273.24(f), which allows FNS to waive the applicability of the work requirement provision for any group of individuals in the State if FNS makes a determination that the area in which the individuals reside has insufficient jobs.
11. **Conditions and reasons:** N/A
12. **Information required for extension:** To receive an extension the State agency must provide data indicating that there are insufficient jobs in the affected areas.
13. **Expiration date:** This waiver is approved effective April 1, 2005 and will expire on March 31, 2006.
14. **Limitation, if any, on regional office approval of like requests:** This waiver is limited to the Georgia State Agency.
15. **Quality control procedures:** N/A
16. **Date of national office action:** April 21, 2004
17. **Date of State agency's request:** February 28, 2005
18. **Date of regional office transmittal of request to national office:** February 28, 2005
19. **Date of regional office transmittal of response to State agency:**
20. **Actual implementation date:**

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