

APRIL 2, 2007

970088

SUBJECT: FSP – Georgia ABAWD Waiver

TO: Peggy Fouts
Regional Director
Food Stamp Program
Southeast Region

This is in response to Georgia State Agency's request for an extension and modification its current waiver of the work requirements of 7 CFR 273.24. Under the waiver, residents of specified multi-county regions will be exempt from the work requirements based on an unemployment rate greater than 20 percent above the national average for the 24-month period from November 2004 through October 2006 is attached.

Our response approving the waiver is attached. If you have any questions, please phone or email Larry Tropp at larry.tropp@fns.usda.gov.

/s/

Harriet Kornegay
Assistant Branch Chief
Certification Policy Branch
Program Development Division

Attachment

FINAL:USDA:FNS:FSP:PDD:CPP:LTropp:03-30-07
DIR:I:CPB:WAIVERS: FY2007/970088 GA ABAWD 2007 ext and mod

Symbol	Surname	Date	Symbol	Surname	Date

WAIVER RESPONSE

1. **Waiver serial number:** 970088
2. **Type of request:** Extension and modification
3. **Primary regulation citation, if any:** 7 CFR 273.24
4. **Secondary regulation citation, if any:**
5. **State:** Georgia
6. **Region:** Southeast
7. **Regulatory Requirements:** 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 State of Georgia requests a modification and extension of waiver 970088 to exempt from the work requirements individuals residing in four sub-regions within the state. Each of these areas is a contiguous sub-region of one of the twelve Service Delivery Regions (SDRs) in the state. The SDRs were created in 1998 by the Governor and General Assembly and are used by the Department of Community Affairs and Department of Industry, Trade, and Tourism to assist in setting regional community and economic development priorities.¹

Georgia is seeking waivers for contiguous sub-regions of these Service Delivery Regions based on aggregate average unemployment rates of at least 20 percent above the national average for Unemployment Rate, November 2004-October 2006. During this period, the national average unemployment rate plus 20 percent was 6.2 percent.

Georgia is requesting to exempt residents in Atkinson County based on aggregate average unemployment rates of at least 20 percent above the national average for April 2004 - March 2006. During this period, the national average unemployment rate plus 20 percent was 6.2.

Area	Unemployment Rate, NOV 2004-OCT 2006
Atkinson County	6.3

The State is seeking waivers for contiguous sub-regions of these Service Delivery Regions based on aggregate average unemployment rates of at least 20 percent above the national average for November 2004 - October 2006. During this period, the national average unemployment rate plus 20 percent was 5.9. Listed below in a tabular format are the sub-regions included in the request.

Sub-region of Service Delivery Region 2:

Area	Unemployment Rate, NOV 2004-OCT 2006	Area	Unemployment Rate, NOV 2004-OCT 2006
Franklin County	5.5	Stephens County	5.7
Hart County	6.6	Total for sub-region	6.4

Sub-region of Service Delivery Region 3:

Area	Unemployment Rate, NOV 2004-OCT 2006	Area	Unemployment Rate, NOV 2004-OCT 2006
Clayton County	6.1	Fulton County	5.9
DeKalb County	5.8	Total for sub-region	5.9

Sub-region of Service Delivery Region 4:

Area	Unemployment Rate, NOV 2004-OCT 2006	Area	Unemployment Rate, NOV 2004-OCT 2006
Butts County	5.5	Pike County	4.9
Carroll County	5.1	Spalding County	6.8
Heard County	5.5	Troup County	6.6
Lamar County	6.0	Upson County	6.6
Meriwether County	7.1	Total for sub-region	6.0

Sub-region of Service Delivery Region 5:

Area	Unemployment Rate, NOV 2004-OCT 2006	Area	Unemployment Rate, NOV 2004-OCT 2006
Elbert County	6.8	Oglethorpe County	4.0
Greene County	6.6	Total for sub-region	5.9

Sub-region of Service Delivery Region 6:

Area	Unemployment Rate, NOV 2004-OCT 2006	Area	Unemployment Rate, NOV 2004-OCT 2006
Baldwin County	5.5	Putnam County	5.1
Bibb County	5.9	Twiggs County	6.7
Crawford County	5.5	Wilkinson County	6.0
Peach County	6.5	Total for sub-region	5.9

Service Delivery Region 7:

Area	Unemployment Rate, NOV 2004-OCT 2006	Area	Unemployment Rate, NOV 2004-OCT 2006
Burke County	7.3	McDuffie County	6.8
Columbia County	4.2	Richmond County	6.8
Glascock County	5.6	Screven County	5.4
Hancock County	8.2	Taliaferro County	7.7
Jefferson County	7.9	Warren County	9.1
Jenkins County	5.8	Washington County	6.7
Lincoln County	7.1	Wilkes County	6.7
		Total for Region	6.2

Service Delivery Region 8:

Area	Unemployment Rate, NOV 2004-OCT 2006	Area	Unemployment Rate, NOV 2004-OCT 2006
Chattahoochee County	10.6	Quitman County	6.0
Clay County	5.3	Randolph County	7.4
Crisp County	6.4	Schley County	6.2
Dooly County	6.6	Stewart County	8.7
Harris County	3.7	Sumter County	6.9
Macon County	8.2	Talbot County	6.9
Marion County	4.8	Taylor County	7.4
Muscogee County	5.9	Webster County	6.0
		Total for Region	6.1

Service Delivery Region 9:

Area	Unemployment Rate, NOV 2004-OCT 2006	Area	Unemployment Rate, NOV 2004-OCT 2006
Appling County	6.0	Montgomery County	5.7
Bleckley County	8.9	Tattnall County	6.0
Candler County	4.7	Telfair County	7.4
Dodge County	5.6	Toombs County	6.1
Emanuel County	5.6	Treutlen County	6.8
Evans County	4.8	Wayne County	6.0
Jeff Davis County	7.4	Wheeler County	6.8
Johnson County	5.5	Wilcox County	6.2
Laurens County	5.5	Total for Region	5.9

Service Delivery Region 10:

Area	Unemployment Rate, NOV 2004-OCT 2006	Area	Unemployment Rate, NOV 2004-OCT 2006
Baker County	5.1	Miller County	4.0
Calhoun County	7.0	Mitchell County	5.8
Colquitt County	6.1	Seminole County	5.6
Decatur County	6.1	Terrell County	6.5
Dougherty County	6.5	Worth County	5.5
Early County	5.5	Total for sub-region	5.9

Sub-region of Service Delivery Region 11:

Area	Unemployment Rate, NOV 2004-OCT 2006	Area	Unemployment Rate, NOV 2004-OCT 2006
Ben Hill County	5.8	Turner County	6.5
Irwin County	5.6	Total for sub-region	5.9

Sub-region of Service Delivery Region 12:

Area	Unemployment Rate, NOV 2004-OCT 2006	Area	Unemployment Rate, NOV 2004-OCT 2006
Liberty County	6.5	McIntosh County	4.8
Long County	4.4	Total for sub-region	5.9

In addition, the State is requesting to exempt residents in Clinch County based on having an average unemployment rate of at least 20 percent above the national average during November 2004 - October 2006.

Area	Unemployment Rate, NOV 2004-OCT 2006
Clinch County	6.2

9. **Action and reason for approval or denial:** Based on the data submitted by the State agency we approving its request to exempt residents of all of the areas listed above based on insufficient jobs as indicated by an average unemployment rate at least 20 percent above the national average for the 24 –month period ending October 31, 2006. The raw data supporting the request is from the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) web site.

10. **Regulatory or legislative basis for action:** The waiver is approved pursuant to 7 CFR 273.24(f), which allows the Secretary to waive the applicability of the work requirement provision for any group of individuals in the State if the Secretary 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:** Please submit supporting unemployment data that relies on Bureau of Labor Statistics data and/or methods and data indicating unemployment over 10 percent of a lack of sufficient jobs.
13. **Expiration date:** The waiver is effective retroactive to March 1, 2007 and will expire on March 31, 2008
14. **Limitations, if any, on regional office approval of like requests:** Waiver applies solely to the State of Georgia.
15. **Quality Control Procedures:** N/A
16. **Date of national office action:**
17. **Date of State agency's request:** February 15, 2007
18. **Date of regional office transmittal of response to national office:** March 12, 2007
19. **Actual implementation date:**

