



B.J. Walker, Commissioner

Department of Human Resources • Division of Family and Children Services • Mary Dean Harvey, Division Director  
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February 15, 2007

Mr. Donald Arnette, Regional Administrator  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Food and Nutrition Service  
61 Forsyth Street, S.W.  
Atlanta, Georgia 30303-3427

Dear Mr. Arnette:

This letter transmits the Federal Fiscal Year 2007 Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWDs) waiver request for Georgia. In accordance with the waiver provisions of Section 824 of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996, Georgia is requesting to exempt 91 counties and 4 cities from the ABAWD provisions. The waiver request was prepared for Georgia by The Center on Budget and Policy Priorities and is based on an analysis of unemployment data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

This waiver requests exemption for the ABAWDS in the 91 counties and 4 cities that had an average unemployment rate of at least 20 percent above the national average during November 2004 – October 2006. Supporting data is attached to this request.

Thank you for your consideration and approval of this waiver. Please contact Jacki Jackson at (404) 651-8700, if additional information is needed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mary D. Harvey", written over a horizontal line.

Mary D. Harvey  
Division Director, DFCS

MDH: jj

Attachment

## WAIVER REQUEST

1. Waiver serial number:  
970088
2. Type of request:  
Extension and modification
3. Primary regulation citation, if any:  
Section 6 (o) of the Food Stamp Act, as amended by Section 824 of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act (PRWORA) of 1996, P.L. 104-193.
4. Secondary regulation citation, if any:  
7 CFR 273.24 (f)(3)(iii)
5. State:  
Georgia
6. Region:  
Southeast
7. Regulatory requirements:  

Under 7 CFR 273.24(b) individuals are 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, the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) may waive the applicability of the above provision for any group of individuals in the State if the 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. Proposed procedures:  

The State of Georgia requests a modification and extension of waiver 970088 to exempt from the work requirements individuals residing in ten 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.<sup>1</sup>

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, APR 2004-MAR 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.

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	<b>Total for sub-region</b>	<b>6.4</b>

Hart County qualifies based on having average unemployment rates of at least 20 percent above the national average during November 2004 – October 2006. Franklin and Stephens Counties qualify based on the area's aggregate average unemployment rate, which is at least 20 percent above the national average during November 2004 – October 2006.

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	<b>Total for sub-region</b>	<b>5.9</b>

Clayton and Fulton Counties qualify based on having average unemployment rates of at least 20 percent above the national average during November 2004 – October 2006. Dekalb County qualifies based on the area's aggregate average unemployment rate, which is at least 20 percent above the national average during November 2004 – October 2006.

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	<b>Total for sub-region</b>	<b>6.0</b>

<sup>1</sup> Please refer to the following link for more on Service Delivery Regions:  
<http://www.dca.state.ga.us/regions/index.html>

Lamar, Meriwether, Spalding, Troup, and Upson Counties qualify based on having average unemployment rates of at least 20 percent above the national average during November 2004 – October 2006. Butts, Carroll, Heard, and Pike Counties qualify based on the area’s aggregate average unemployment rate, which is at least 20 percent above the national average during November 2004 – October 2006.

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	<b>Total for Sub-region</b>	<b>5.9</b>

Elbert and Green Counties qualify based on having average unemployment rates of at least 20 percent above the national average during November 2004 – October 2006. Oglethorpe County qualifies based on the area’s aggregate average unemployment rate, which is at least 20 percent above the national average during November 2004 – October 2006.

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	<b>Total for sub-region</b>	<b>5.9</b>

Bibb, Peach, Twiggs, and Wilkinson Counties qualify based on having average unemployment rates of at least 20 percent above the national average during November 2004 – October 2006. Baldwin, Crawford, and Putnam Counties qualify based on the area’s aggregate average unemployment rate, which is at least 20 percent above the national average during November 2004 – October 2006.

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
		<b>Total for Region</b>	<b>6.2</b>

Burke, Hancock, Jefferson, Lincoln, McDuffie, Richmond, Taliaferro, Warren, Washington, and Wilkes Counties qualify based on having average unemployment rates of at least 20 percent above the national average during November 2004 – October 2006. Columbia, GlascocK, Jenkins, and Screven Counties qualify based on the area’s aggregate average unemployment rate, which is at least 20 percent above the national average during November 2004 – October 2006.

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
		<b>Total for Region</b>	<b>6.1</b>

Chattahoochee, Crisp, Dooly, Macon, Muscogee, Quitman, Randolph, Schley, Stewart, Sumter, Talbot, Taylor, and Webster Counties qualify based on having average unemployment rates of at least 20 percent above the national average during November 2004 – October 2006. Clay, Harris, and Marion Counties qualify based on the area's aggregate average unemployment rate, which is at least 20 percent above the national average during November 2004 – October 2006.

#### 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	6.9	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	<b>Total for Region</b>	<b>5.9</b>

Appling, Bleckley, Jeff Davis, Tattnall, Telfair, Toombs, Treutlen, Wayne, Wheeler, and Wilcox Counties qualify based on having average unemployment rates of at least 20 percent above the national average during November 2004 – October 2006. Candler, Dodge, Emanuel, Evans, Johnson, Laurens, and Montgomery Counties qualify based on the area's aggregate average unemployment rate, which is at least 20 percent above the national average during November 2004 – October 2006.

#### 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	5.1	Seminole County	5.6
Decatur County	6.1	Terrell County	6.5
Dougherty County	6.5	Worth County	5.5
Early County	5.5	<b>Total for sub-region</b>	<b>5.9</b>

Calhoun, Decatur, Dougherty, and Terrell Counties qualify based on having average unemployment rates of at least 20 percent above the national average during November 2004 – October 2006. Baker, Colquitt, Early, Miller, Mitchell, Seminole, and Worth Counties qualify based on the area's aggregate average unemployment

rate, which is at least 20 percent above the national average during November 2004 – October 2006.

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	<b>Total for sub-region</b>	<b>5.9</b>

Turner County qualifies based on having average unemployment rates of at least 20 percent above the national average during November 2004 – October 2006. Ben Hill and Irwin Counties qualify based on the area’s aggregate average unemployment rate, which is at least 20 percent above the national average during November 2004 – October 2006.

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	<b>Total for sub-region</b>	<b>5.9</b>

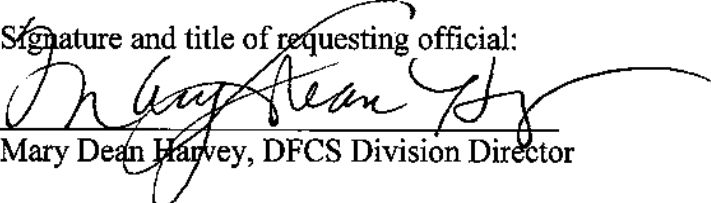
Liberty County qualifies based on having average unemployment rates of at least 20 percent above the national average during November 2004 – October 2006. Long and McIntosh Counties qualify based on the area’s aggregate average unemployment rate, which is at least 20 percent above the national average during November 2004 – October 2006.

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. Justification for request:  
As stated in number 8 above, the sub-regions listed above have an average unemployment rate of at least 20 percent above the national average during a recent 24-month time period. All of the raw data supporting our numbers that we have used are from the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) website.
10. Anticipated impact on households and State agency operations:  
This waiver will provide consistency for households and State agency operations in areas where unemployment remains higher than the national average.
11. Caseload information, including percent, characteristic, and quality control error rate for affected portion:  
The caseload for these areas, as of February 5, 2007, represent 60.2% of the caseload for the state. There are no quality control procedures involved
12. Anticipated implementation date and time period for which waiver is needed:  
Waiver 970088 will expire on March 31, 2008.

13. Proposed quality control review procedures:  
There are no special quality control procedures needed in conjunction with this waiver.

14. Signature and title of requesting official:  
  
Mary Dean Harvey, DFCS Division Director

15. Date of request:

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February 15, 2007