

MARCH 5, 2008 EFFECTIVE DATE AMENDED 3/25/08

970088 & 2080015

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. The State agency's request, in effect, includes two waivers. The first is a 1-year waiver for a 2-county region based on an unemployment rate greater than 20 percent above the national average for the 24-month period ending May 2007. The second request is for a 2-year waiver (designated as waiver no. 2080015) for residents of six additional multi-county regions and six stand-alone areas based on data for a 36-month period ending October 2007.

Our response approving the State agency's request 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

WAIVER RESPONSE

1. **Waiver serial numbers:** 970088 & 2080015
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.

Description of proposed alternative procedures: Although this request has been framed as an extension and modification of the Georgia's current waiver, we are handling the request as two separate waivers. The first waiver, which we will continue to designate as no. 970088 would exempt residents of one multi-county region from the work requirements of 7 CFR 273.24 for a 2-year period based on unemployment greater than 20 percent above the national average for the 24-month period ending May 2007. The second waiver, which we have designated as waiver no. 208115, would exempt residents of six multi-county regions based on an unemployment rate at least 20 percent above the national average for the 36-month period ending October 2007. The specific areas, including the supporting data are set forth below:

Waiver no. 970088 - 1-year waiver based on labor market data for June 2005 through May 2007
Approval threshold is 5.6% (120% of the 24-month national average of 4.7%)

Area	Total Labor force	Total Unemployed	Unemployment Rate
Cook County	170559	9618	5.6
Rabun County	187927	10431	5.6
Total for sub-region	358,486	20,049	5.6

Waiver no. 2080015

2-year waiver based on labor market data for the period November 2004 through October 2007

Sub-region of Service Delivery Region 2:

Area	Total Labor force	Total Unemployed	Unemployment Rate
Franklin County	387429	20268	5.2
Hart County	398868	26586	6.7
Total for sub-region	786297	46854	6

Sub-region of Service Delivery Region 4:

Area	Total Labor force	Total Unemployed	Unemployment Rate
Butts County	337897	18491	5.5
Carroll County	1881654	94342	5
Heard County	183381	9463	5.2
Lamar County	288534	16032	5.6
Meriwether County	364024	23650	6.5
Spalding County	1040450	65189	6.3
Troup County	1100244	68565	6.2
Upton County	432402	27997	6.5
Total for sub-region	5628586	323729	5.8

Sub-region of Service Delivery Region 6:

Area	Total Labor force	Total Unemployed	Unemployment Rate
Twiggs County	169500	10433	6.2
Wilkinson County	163800	9218	5.6
Total for sub-region	333300	19651	5.9

Service Delivery Region 7:

Area	Total Labor force	Total Unemployed	Unemployment Rate
Burke County	367954	26409	7.2
Columbia County	2070584	85877	4.1
GlascocK County	43497	2328	5.4
Hancock County	122358	9859	8.1
Jefferson County	254352	18551	7.3
Jenkins County	128841	8520	6.6
Lincoln County	134303	8565	6.4

McDuffie County	387514	24725	6.4
Richmond County	3275866	206232	6.3
Taliaferro County	27206	2059	7.6
Warren County	90995	7920	8.7
Washington County	302474	17852	5.9
Wilkes County	168963	11063	6.5
Total for Region	7374907	429960	5.8

Service Delivery Region 8:

Area	Total Labor force	Total Unemployed	Unemployment Rate
Chattahoochee County	97145	9379	9.7
Clay County	53801	2642	4.9
Crisp County	371534	22508	6.1
Dooly County	175503	10630	6.1
Harris County	559497	21648	3.9
Macon County	192729	14616	7.6
Marion County	124652	5885	4.7
Muscogee County	3101506	174705	5.6
Quitman County	35877	1998	5.6
Randolph County	101109	6787	6.7
Schley County	64901	3979	6.1
Stewart County	72203	5586	7.7
Sumter County	530839	35870	6.8
Talbot County	110532	7496	6.8
Taylor County	119350	7908	6.6
Webster County	42280	2273	5.4
Total for Region	5753458	333910	5.8

Service Delivery Region 9:

Area	Total Labor force	Total Unemployed	Unemployment Rate
Appling County	319646	18213	5.7
Bleckley County	185858	12175	6.6
Dodge County	341175	17464	5.1
Emanuel County	388822	20487	5.3
Jeff Davis County	197982	14180	7.2
Johnson County	137050	7890	5.8
Montgomery County	159752	8516	5.3
Tattnall County	325008	17930	5.5
Telfair County	180559	13549	7.5
Toombs County	479848	26239	5.5
Treutlen County	98006	6273	6.4
Wayne County	430516	24368	5.7
Wheeler County	105046	5992	5.7
Wilcox County	118738	7224	6.1
Total for Region	3468006	200500	5.8

Service Delivery Region 10:

Area	Total Labor force	Total Unemployed	Unemployment Rate
Baker County	65982	3275	5
Calhoun County	85914	5389	6.3
Decatur County	435253	25724	5.9
Dougherty County	1516318	90266	6
Early County	206188	10768	5.2
Mitchell County	374764	19443	5.2
Seminole County	145122	7820	5.4
Terrell County	167894	10046	6
Total for sub-region	2997435	172731	5.8

Sub-region of Service Delivery Region 11:

Area	Total Labor force	Total Unemployed	Unemployment Rate
Atkinson County	125296	6985	5.6
Ben Hill County	298180	17347	5.8
Clinch County	96423	5447	5.6
Coffee County	618219	35311	5.7
Turner County	184900	11285	6.1
Total for sub-region	1323018	76375	5.8

Stand Alone Areas Based on Unemployment 20 percent Above the National Average

Area	Total Labor force	Total Unemployed	Unemployment Rate
Clayton County	5030886	293201	5.8
Elbert County	362145	23214	6.4
Greene County	249543	15274	6.1
Peach County	416347	25060	6
East Point City	693730	40731	5.9
Macon City	1490994	92072	6.2

8. **Action and reason for approval or denial:** Based on the data submitted by the State agency, we are approving its request to exempt residents of all of the areas listed in the State agency's waiver request. Based on data showing an average unemployment rate at least 20 percent above the national average for the 24 – month period ending May 2007, we are approving a 1-year waiver for the regions consisting of Cook and Rabun Counties. We are approving a 2-year waiver based on data for the 36-month period ending October 2007 for the multi-county regions and stand-alone areas included in waiver no. 2080015. The raw data supporting the request is from the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) web site.

9. **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 dates:** Waiver no. 970088 is effective June 1, 2008 and will expire on May 31, 2009. Waiver no. 2080015 is effective June 1, 2008, and will expire on May 31, 2010.
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:** January 28, 2008
18. **Date of regional office transmittal of waiver request to national office:** January 28, 2008
19. **Actual implementation date:**