

June 17, 2005

970161, 970162, and 2010190 (Now Waiver # 2010190)

SUBJECT: Idaho Able-bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWD) Waiver
Extension Request— High Unemployment

TO: Dennis Stewart, Director
Food Stamp Program
Western Region

This is in response to your memorandum dated May 24, 2005, transmitting Idaho's request to extend waivers 2010190, 970161, and 970162. As you recommended, we are approving Idaho's request for all of the areas listed in the waiver request except Cassia and Lamhi counties.

As you know, we had to use an alternative formula to the one submitted by the State Agency to approve these requests because the figures submitted by the State Agency did not meet our criteria to establish an unemployment rate that exceeded the national unemployment rate by 20 percent for the time period of January 2003 through December 2004. Instead, we used the time period of January 2002 through December 2003.

Additionally, we are combining all of these requests into one which will be known as waiver number 2010190. Therefore, in the future, the State agency only has to refer to waiver number 2010190 when referring to this request in future correspondence.

Our response explaining our findings is attached. If you have any questions, please contact Susan Burgess of my staff at 703-305-2437.

/s/

Harriet Kornegay
Assistant Branch Chief
Certification Policy Branch

Attachment

cc: Bob Dalrymple
Mike DePiro
Civil Rights

FINAL:USDA:FNS:FSP:PDD:CPB:Sburgess:05/26/05:so
FILE:I:/CPB/Waivers/FY2005/ 2010190 ID ABAWD Ext.

WAIVER RESPONSE

1. **Waiver serial number:** 2010190
2. **Type of request:** Extension
3. **Primary regulation citation:** 7 CFR 273.24(f)
4. **Secondary regulation citation:**
5. **State:** Idaho
6. **Region:** Western
7. **Regulatory requirements:** Under section 273.24(b) of the Food Stamp Program (FSP) regulations, an individual is not eligible to participate in the FSP as a member of any household if the individual received food stamps for more than three countable months during any three-year period. A countable month is any month during which an individual receives food stamps for the full month but does not comply with the program's work requirement, is not exempt from the work requirement, is not covered by a waiver, or does not receive benefits that are prorated in accordance with 7 CFR 273.10.

Section 273.24(f) permits State agencies to request a waiver of the work requirement for a group of individuals in the State if 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.

Proposed alternative procedures: The Idaho State Agency is requesting an extension of the following waivers: 2010190, 970161, and 970162. These waivers permit the State Agency to exclude from the work requirement individuals residing in the State of Idaho where there is an aggregate unemployment rate of at least 7.1 percent for calendar years 2002 and 2003 which exceeds the national average by 20 percent. The State agency is seeking an extension of the waiver and a modification based on the above criteria to cover the following areas:

Adams County	Idaho County
Benewah County	Kootenai less Coeur D'Alene City
Bonner County	Lemhi County
Boundary County	Minidoka County
Caribou County	Payette County
Cassia County	Power County
Clearwater County	Shoshone County
Custer County	Valley County
Gem County	Washington County
Coeur D'Alene Reservation	Fort Hall Reservation
Duck Valley Reservation	Nez Perce Reservation

9. Action and reason for approval or denial: We are approving the State agency's request to extend waivers 2010190, 970161, and 970162 for all of the areas listed above except Cassia and Lamhi counties. All of the other areas met one of two tests that our agency uses to calculate the unemployment rate of reservations and other regions across the country. We had to use an alternative formula to the one submitted by the State Agency to approve these requests because the figures submitted by the State Agency did not meet our criteria to establish an unemployment rate that exceeded the national unemployment rate by 20 percent for the time period of January 2003 through December 2004. We used the time period of January 2002 through December 2003. Additionally, we are combining all three waiver requests into one which will be known as waiver number 2010190.

The following table summarizes our findings for all of the counties listed in the request based on data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics:

Area	Labor Force 2002-2003	Unemployment 2002-2003	Unemployment Rate 2002-2003
Adams County	40,729	5,435	13.3%
Benewah County	101,246	10,557	10.4%
Bonner County	427,517	33,373	7.8%
Boundary County	105,640	8,719	8.3%
Caribou County	78,444	5,535	7.1%
Cassia County	235,911	14,657	6.2%
Clearwater County	89,112	9,605	10.8%
Custer County	51,040	3,611	7.1%
Gem County	142,732	11,884	8.3%
Idaho County	156,304	13,640	8.7%
Kootenai less Coeur D'Alene City	919,740	75,860	8.2%
Lemhi County	92,128	6,131	6.7%
Minidoka County	230,083	17,931	7.8%
Payette County	225,859	20,690	9.2%
Power County	76,035	6,771	8.9%
Shoshone County	147,714	16,533	11.2%
Valley County	98,032	8,142	8.3%
Washington County	100,044	10,050	10.0%

National Average Jan 2002-Dec 2003: 5.9%
20% above National Average: 7.1%

The following table summarizes our findings for the Reservations listed in the request based on data from the Idaho Department of Labor:

Area	Labor Force 2002-2003	Unemployment 2002-2003	Unemployment Rate 2002-2003
Fort Hall Reservation	52,898	10,206	19.3%
Nez Perce Reservation	32,612	4,112	12.6%
Coeur D'Alene Reservation	25,922	3,431	13.2%
Duck Valley Reservation	3,647	333	9.1%

National Average Jan 2002-Dec 2003: 5.9%
20% above National Average: 7.1%

10. **Regulatory or legislative basis for action:** The State agency's request to extend waivers 2010190, 970161, and 970162 is approved for the areas listed above, pursuant to 7 CFR 273.24(f), which permits the Food and Nutrition Service, at a State agency's request, to waive the work requirement for a group of individuals in the State if the agency determines 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.
11. **Conditions and reasons:** None.
12. **Information required for extension:** Please submit information to verify the basis for the waiver in each county and reservation. Please ask the State to submit future requests no later than 60 days prior to the expiration date.
13. **Expiration date:** The waiver is approved for a period of one year, effective April 1, 2005. The waiver will expire on March 31, 2006.
14. **Limitation on regional office approval of like requests:** Approval of this waiver is limited to the Idaho State agency.
15. **Quality control procedures:** N/A
16. **Date of national office action:**
17. **Date of State agency's request:** April 1, 2005
18. **Date of regional office transmittal of response to State agency:**
19. **Actual implementation date:**