

February 27, 2008

2010190

SUBJECT: FSP - Idaho – ABAWD - Waiver of the Requirements of 7 CFR 273.24

TO: Dennis Stewart, Director  
Food Stamp Program  
Western Region

This is in response to the Idaho State agency's request of January 24, 2008, to modify and extend its waiver to exempt individuals residing in certain areas from the work requirements of 7 CFR 273.24 based on insufficient jobs. The State agency bases its determination of insufficient jobs on Bureau of Labor Statistics and 2000 Census data.

Our detailed response approving the State's request is attached. If there are any questions, please contact Jennie Nelson at (703) 305-2446.

Sincerely,

/S/

Patrick Waldron  
Chief  
Certification Policy Branch  
Program Development Division

Attachment

cc: Dan Wilusz, QCB, PAD, w/attachment  
Bob Dalrymple, OANE w/attachment  
All Regions (except WRO) w/attachment  
FNS National Arbitrator w/attachment  
Civil Rights w/attachment

FINAL:USDA:FNS:FSP:PDD:CPB:JNELSON:02/08/08:jragan:02/26/08:305-2519  
FILE:I:CPB:WAIVERS:FY 2008: 2010190 ID ABAWD (Mod & Ext.)

Symbol	Surname	Date	Symbol	Surname	Date

## WAIVER RESPONSE

1. **Waiver serial number:** 2010190
2. **Type of request:** Modification & Extension
3. **Primary regulation citation:** 7 CFR 273.24(f)
4. **Secondary regulation citation:**
5. **State:** Idaho
6. **Region:** Western
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 was 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. **Proposed alternative procedures:** The Idaho State Agency is requesting a modification and extension of this ABAWD waiver for individuals residing in 16 counties. The State agency modified its request by adding the counties of Boise, Butte, Clark, Custer and Lemhi and then combined the counties into one sub-region.

Idaho seeks waivers for contiguous counties that are eligible based on aggregate average unemployment rate (UER) of at least 20 percent above the national average during January 2005 – December 2006, during which the national average unemployment rate plus 20 percent was 5.8. The data is based on labor market data from the website of the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS).

**Combined Counties:**

Area	Labor Force JAN 2005 – DEC 2006	Unemployment Jan 2005 – Dec 2006	Unemployment Rate Jan 2005 – Dec 2006
Adams County	47,601	3,465	7.3
Benewah County	99,857	7,410	7.4
Boise County	90,013	3,562	4
Bonner County	491,167	23,713	4.8
Boundary County	101,066	7,624	7.5
Butte County	28,859	1,322	4.6
Clark County	12,807	564	4.4
Clearwater County	79,805	7,023	8.8
Custer County	61,574	2,804	4.6
Idaho County	170,232	10,941	6.4
Lemhi County	96,277	5,555	5.8
Lewis County	41,603	1,357	3.3
Payette County	247,481	15,359	6.2
Shoshone County	135,332	10,267	7.6
Valley County	115,509	5,041	4.4
Washington County	120,690	5,893	4.9
<b>Total for sub-region</b>	<b>1,939,873</b>	<b>111,900</b>	<b>5.8</b>

Adams, Benewah, Boundary, Clearwater, Idaho, Lemhi, Payette, and Shoshone Counties qualify based on having average unemployment rates of at least 20 Percent above the national average during January 2005 through December 2006. Boise, Bonner, Butte, Clark, Custer, Lewis, Valley, and Washington Counties qualify based on the area's aggregate average unemployment rate, which is at least 20 percent above the national average during January 2005 through December 2006.

In addition, the State agency is requesting to exempt residents in Coeur d'Alene, Fort Hall, and Nez Perce Reservations based on having average unemployment rates of at least 20 percent above the national average of 5.8, for the 24-month period of January 2005 through December 2006.

Area	Labor Force Jan 2005 – Dec 2006	Unemployment Jan 2005 – Dec 2006	Unemployment Rate Jan 2005 – Dec 2006
Coeur d'Alene Reservation	27,260	1,952	7.2
Fort Hall Reservation	50,366	6,726	13.4
Nez Perce Reservation	28,674	3,409	11.9

9. **Action and reason for approval or denial:** We are approving Idaho's request in full. Able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWDs) who reside within the preceding areas will be exempt from work requirements based on high unemployment.

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:** None.
12. **Information required for extension:** To receive an extension the State agency must provide verifiable data indicating that there are insufficient jobs in the affected areas.
13. **Expiration date:** The waiver is approved from April 1, 2008 through March 31, 2009.
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:** February 12, 2008
17. **Date of State agency's request:** January 14, 2008
18. **Date of regional office transmittal of request to national office:** January 24, 2008
19. **Date of regional office transmittal of response to State agency:**
20. **Actual implementation date:**