

March 20, 2007

2070031

SUBJECT: FSP - Illinois - Request to Waive 7 CFR 273.24

TO: Tim English, Regional Director
Food Stamp Program
Midwest Region

This is in response to the Illinois State Agency's request to amend waiver #980017. Illinois is requesting a modification of its current waiver to exempt, for two years, individuals residing in 62 counties and 8 cities within the state, which had an average unemployment rate 20 percent higher than the national average during the 36-month period December 2003-November 2006. We are approving this request under a separate waiver 2070031.

Our response is attached. If you have any questions, please contact Celeste Perkins at (703) 305-2507.

/s/

Patrick Waldron
Chief
Certification Policy Branch
Program Development

Attachment

cc: All Regions (except MWRO)
Dan Wilusz, QC, PAD
Bob Dalrymple, OANE

FINAL:USDA:FNS:FSP:PDD:CPB:CPerkins:03/13/07
DIR:I:CPB/Waivers/2007: 2070031 IL ABAWD Mod.

Symbol	Surname	Date	Symbol	Surname	Date

WAIVER RESPONSE

1. **Waiver serial number:** 2070031
2. **Type of request:** Modification
3. **Primary regulation citation:** 7 CFR 273.24
4. **Secondary regulation citation:**
5. **State:** Illinois
6. **Region:** Midwest Region
7. **Regulatory Requirements:** Under 7 CFR 273.24(b), an individual is 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, FNS may waive the applicability of the above provision for any group of individuals in the State if 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. **Description of proposed alternative procedures:** Illinois is requesting to modify its current waiver #980017 to exempt for two years, individuals residing in 62 counties and 8 cities within the state, which had an average unemployment rate 20 percent higher than the national average during the 36-month period ending November 2006.
9. **Action and reason for approval or denial:** We are approving the State's request to modify its current waiver #980017 under a separate waiver #2070031. The State is requesting a 2-year waiver for nine regions listed below. Each of these areas is a contiguous Sub-region of one of the ten Economic Development Regions (EDRs) in the state. These areas consist of individuals residing in 62 counties and 8 cities within the state, based on aggregate average unemployment rates of at least 20 percent above the national average during the 36-month period December 2003-November 2006. During this period, the national average unemployment rate plus 20 percent was 6.1. The State meets the 2-year

exemption work requirements for ABAWDS. All of the data submitted by the State meets the requirements of approval pursuant to 7 CFR 273.24(f)(3) and additional FNS guidance.

Sub-region of Northwest Economic Development Region

Area	Unemployment Rate, DEC 03-NOV 06	Area	Unemployment Rate, DEC 03-NOV 06
Bureau County	5.4	Putnam County	5.8
Carroll County	6.4	Whiteside County	6.0
La Salle County	6.3	Total for Sub-region	6.1

Northern Stateline Economic Development Region

Area	Unemployment Rate, DEC 03-NOV 06	Area	Unemployment Rate, DEC 03-NOV 06
Boone County	6.5	Stephenson County	5.8
Ogle County	5.6	Winnebago County	6.6
		Total for region	6.4

Sub-region of West Central Economic Development Region

Area	Unemployment Rate, DEC 03-NOV 06	Area	Unemployment Rate, DEC 03-NOV 06
Brown County	3.8	Schuyler County	4.8
Hancock County	5.5	Warren County	5.7
Henderson County	6.0	Total for Sub-region	6.2
Knox County	7.2		

Sub-region of North Central Economic Development Region

Area	Unemployment Rate, DEC 03-NOV 06	Area	Unemployment Rate, DEC 03-NOV 06
Fulton County	6.2	Mason County	7.0
		Total for Sub-region	6.4

Sub-region of East Central Economic Development Region

Area	Unemployment Rate, DEC 03-NOV 06	Area	Unemployment Rate, DEC 03-NOV 06
Ford County	4.8	Vermilion County	6.8
Iroquois County	4.9	Total for Sub-region	6.1

Sub-region of Central Economic Development Region

Area	Unemployment Rate, DEC 03-NOV 06	Area	Unemployment Rate, DEC 03-NOV 06
Christian County	5.7	Macoupin County	5.8
Greene County	5.5	Montgomery County	7.2
Logan County	5.5	Morgan County	5.6
Macon County	6.3	Scott County	6.3
		Total for Sub-region	6.1

Sub-region of Southwest Economic Development Region

Area	Unemployment Rate, DEC 03-NOV 06	Area	Unemployment Rate, DEC 03-NOV 06
Bond County	5.9	Randolph County	5.5
Clinton County	5.0	St. Clair County	6.3
		Total for Sub-region	6.1

Sub-region of Southeast Economic Development Region

Area	Unemployment Rate, DEC 03-NOV 06	Area	Unemployment Rate, DEC 03-NOV 06
Clark County	5.6	Fayette County	6.8
Clay County	6.0	Lawrence County	5.4
Crawford County	6.1	Marion County	7.2
Cumberland County	5.6	Richland County	5.7
Edgar County	5.3	Total for Sub-region	6.1
Effingham County	5.7		

Sub-region of Southern Economic Development Region

Area	Unemployment Rate, DEC 03-NOV 06	Area	Unemployment Rate, DEC 03-NOV 06
Alexander County	9.1	Pope County	6.9
Edwards County	4.6	Pulaski County	8.2
Franklin County	7.4	Saline County	6.2
Gallatin County	6.6	Union County	6.7
Hamilton County	5.6	Wabash County	5.8
Hardin County	7.3	Wayne County	5.1
Jefferson County	5.4	White County	4.9
Johnson County	6.3	Williamson County	5.6
Massac County	5.6	Total for Sub-region	6.1
Perry County	6.9		

In addition, residents in the Calhoun and Stark Counties, residents in the cities of Addison village, Alton, Carpentersville village, Elgin, Granite, North Chicago, Pekin, Round Lake Beach village, Waukegan, and West Chicago are exempt based on having an average unemployment rate of at least 20 percent above the national average during December 2003-November 2006.

Area	Unemployment Rate, DEC 03-NOV 06	Area	Unemployment Rate, DEC 03-NOV 06
Calhoun County	6.3	North Chicago city	10.0
Stark County	6.2	Pekin city	6.1
Addison village	6.1	Round Lake Beach village	6.2
Alton city	7.2	Waukegan city	6.7
Granite city	7.5	West Chicago city	6.7

10. **Regulatory or legislative basis for action:** This waiver is approved under the authority of 7 CFR 273.24(f), which allows FNS to waive the applicability of the work requirement provision for any group of individuals in the State if FNS 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:** To receive an extension the State agency must provide data for the affected areas indicating that there continue to be insufficient jobs for individuals subject to 7 CFR 273.24. They must provide us with all supporting documentation, including spreadsheets in digital form.
13. **Expiration date:** This waiver is approved effective March 1, 2007 and will expire on February 28, 2009.
14. **Limitation on regional office approval of like requests:** This waiver is limited to the Illinois State Agency.
15. **Quality Control Procedures:**
16. **Date of national office action:**
17. **Date of State Agency's request:** February 08, 2007
18. **Date of regional office transmittal of request to National Office:**
19. **Actual implementation date:**