

December 20, 2007

980017

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 your memorandum forwarding a request from the State of Illinois to modify and extend ABAWD waiver #980017. The State agency is requesting approval for 2 counties (Grundy and Kankakee), 11 cities (Calumet, Carpentersville village, Chicago, Chicago Heights, Cicero town, Dolton village, Elgin, Harvey, Joliet, Maywood village, and Park Forest Village) for a two-year waiver based upon unemployment rates of more than 20% above the national average during a recent 36-month period (September 2004 through August 2007).

In addition, the State agency requests to exempt residents in the following areas: South Holland and Hanover Park, and 182 municipalities with populations less than 25,000 for a two-year waiver based upon unemployment rates of at least 20% above the national average during a recent 36-month period (October 2004 through September 2007).

Our response approving the waiver modification is attached. If you have any questions, please contact Celeste Perkins via email or telephone at (703) 305-2507.

/s/ Thomas O'Connell, for

Patrick Waldron
Chief
Certification Policy Branch
Program Development

Attachment

cc: All Regions (except MWRO)

FINAL:USDA:FNS:FSP:PDD:CPB:CPerkins:12/18/07
DIR:I:CPB/Waivers/2008: 980017 IL ABAWD Mod & Ext.

Symbol	Surname	Date	Symbol	Surname	Date

WAIVER RESPONSE

1. **Waiver serial number:** 980017
2. **Type of request:** Modification and Extension
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 and extend ABAWD waiver #980017 that currently exempts individuals residing in 2 counties (Grundy and Kankakee). The State is also requesting a modification that includes 11 cities (Calumet, Carpentersville village, Chicago, Chicago Heights, Cicero town, Dolton village, Elgin, Harvey, Joliet, Maywood village, and Park Forest Village) which had an average unemployment rate (6.1) 20 percent higher than the national average during September 2004 through August 2007.

In addition the State is also requesting to exempt residents in cities: South Holland and Hanover Park, and 182 municipalities with populations less than 25,000 listed in the attached chart from the Illinois Department of Employment Securities. For the period October 2004 through September 2007 these areas had a 36 monthly average unemployment rate of at least 5.9 %, 120% of the average U.S. unemployment rate of 4.7% for the same period.

9. **Action and reason for approval or denial:** We are approving Illinois'

request for a two- year modification and extension of its current waiver to exempt individuals residing in the following counties: Grundy and Kankakee and 11 cities: Calumet, Carpentersville village, Chicago, Chicago Heights, Cicero town, Dolton village, Elgin, Harvey, Joliet, Maywood village, and Park Forest Village based upon unemployment rates of more than 20% above the national average during a recent 36-month period (September 2004 through August 2007). During this period, the national average unemployment rate plus 20 percent was 5.8.

Sub-region of Northeast Economic Development Region

Area	Unemployment rate, September 04- August 07	Area	Unemployment rate, September 04- August 07
Grundy County	6.1	Dolton Village	7.9
Kankakee County	6.2	Elgin City	6.3
Calumet City	7.7	Harvey City	9.6
Carpentersville Village	6.7	Joliet City	6.6
Chicago City	6.1	Maywood Village	8.2
Chicago Heights City	9.2	Park Forest Village	6.1
Cicero Town	7.1		

We are also approving the State’s request to exempt residents in following areas: South Holland and Hanover Park and 182 municipalities with populations less than 25,000 listed in the attached chart from the Illinois Department of Employment Securities. For the period October 2004 – September 2007 these areas had a 36 monthly average unemployment rate of at least 5.9%, 120% of the average U.S. unemployment rate of 4.7% for the same period.

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, 2008 and will expire on February 28, 2010.

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:** November 19, 2007
18. **Date of regional office transmittal of request to National Office:** November 20, 2007
19. **Actual implementation date:**



Illinois ABAWD.pdf

