

January 31, 2008

970155

SUBJECT: FSP – Indiana – Request to Waive 7 CFR 273.24

TO: Tim English, Director
Food Stamp Program
Midwest Region

This is in response to the Indiana State Agency's request to extend and modify its current ABAWD waiver #970155 for eight areas within the state. Each of these areas is a contiguous region or sub-region of one of the twelve Workforce Investment Planning Regions in the State. These areas were based on having aggregate average unemployment rates of at least 20 percent above the national average for June 2005-May 2007. During this period, the national average unemployment rate plus 20 percent was 5.6. The State is also requesting to exempt residents in the following areas: Elkhart City and South Bend City based on having an average unemployment rate of at least 20 percent above the national average during June 2005 – May 2007. In addition, the State has requested to modify the current waiver to include the following 3 counties: Huntington, Lagrange, and Floyd.

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

/S/

Harriet Kornegay
Assistant Branch Chief
Certification Policy Branch
Program Development Division

Attachment

cc: ALL RO w/Attachment (except MWRO)

WAIVER RESPONSE

1. **Waiver serial number:** 970155
2. **Type of request:** Modification and Extension
3. **Primary regulation citation:** 7 CFR 273.24
4. **Secondary regulation citation:** N/A
5. **State:** Indiana
6. **Region:** Midwest
7. **Regulatory requirements:** Under 7 CFR 273.24 (b) individuals are 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 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, the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) may waive the applicability of the above provision for any group of individuals in the State if the 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:** Indiana is requesting to extend and modify its current ABAWD waiver for eight areas within the state. Each of these areas is a contiguous region or sub-region of one of the twelve Workforce Investment Planning Regions in the state. The Indiana Department of Workforce Development collects workforce statistics for these twelve Planning Regions, which are based on labor market and economic information that reflect regional economies and commuting patterns.

Indiana is seeking waivers for contiguous regions and sub-regions of these Workforce Investment Planning Regions based on aggregate average unemployment rates of at least 20 percent above the national average for June 2005 – May 2007. During this period, the national average unemployment

rate plus 20 percent was 5.6. The State is also requesting to exempt residents in the following areas: Elkhart City and South Bend City based on having an average unemployment rate of at least 20 percent above the national average during June 2005 – May 2007. In addition, the State has requested to modify the current waiver to include the following 3 counties: Huntington, Lagrange, and Floyd.

9. **Action and reason for approval or denial:** We are approving the State Agency’s request for an extension of the current waiver. We are approving the 8 contiguous sub-regions of the twelve Workforce Investment Planning Regions in the State. We are also approving the modification to include the three additional counties: Huntington, Lagrange, and Floyd.

The areas listed below are approved based on the area’s aggregate average unemployment rates, which is at least 20 percent above the national average for June 2005 – May 2007. During this period, the national average unemployment rate plus 20 percent was 5.6.

Sub-Region of Workforce Investment Planning Region 1:

Area	Unemployment Rate, JUN 2005 – MAY 2007	Area	Unemployment Rate, JUN 2005 – MAY 2007
Jasper County	5.2	Newton County	5.2
Lake County	5.8	Pulaski County	4.6
LaPorte County	5.7	Starke County	6.5
		Total for Region	5.7

Sub-region of Workforce Investment Planning Region 3:

Area	Unemployment Rate, JUN 2005 – MAY 2007	Area	Unemployment Rate, JUN 2005 – MAY 2007
DeKalb County	6.1	Noble County	6
Huntington County	5.2	Steuben County	6.3
Lagrange County	5	Whitley County	4.7
		Total for Region	5.6

Workforce Investment Planning Region 5:

Area	Unemployment Rate, JUN 2005 – MAY 2007	Area	Unemployment Rate, JUN 2005 – MAY 2007
Cass County	5.4	Miami County	6.1
Fulton County	5.2	Tipton County	5.3
Howard County	6.4	Wabash County	5.7
		Total for Sub-region	5.9

Workforce Investment Planning Region 6:

Area	Unemployment Rate, JUN 2005 – MAY 2007	Area	Unemployment Rate, JUN 2005 – MAY 2007
Blackford County	6.6	Jay County	4.7
Delaware County	6.0	Madison County	6.3
Grant County	7.1	Randolph County	6.7
Henry County	6.0	Total for Region	6.3

Workforce Investment Planning Region 7:

Area	Unemployment Rate, JUN 2005 – MAY 2007	Area	Unemployment Rate, JUN 2005 – MAY 2007
Clay County	6.0	Sullivan County	6.2
Parke County	5.7	Vermillion County	6.6
Putnam County	5.7	Vigo County	6.2
		Total for Region	6.1

Sub-region of Workforce Investment Planning Region 9:

Area	Unemployment Rate, JUN 2005 – MAY 2007	Area	Unemployment Rate, JUN 2005 – MAY 2007
Dearborn County	5.3	Ohio County	5.1
Decatur County	4.6	Ripley County	4.8
Fayette County	7.8	Union County	5.3
Franklin County	5.9	Wayne County	6.1
Jefferson County	4.9	Total for Sub-region	5.6

Sub-region of Workforce Investment Planning Region 10:

Area	Unemployment Rate, JUN 2005 – MAY 2007	Area	Unemployment Rate, JUN 2005 – MAY 2007
Brown County	4.9	Jennings County	6
Greene County	5.7	Lawrence County	7.1
Jackson County	4.4	Owen County	5.4
		Total for Sub-region	5.7

Sub-region of Workforce Investment Planning Region 12:

Area	Unemployment Rate, JUN 2005 – MAY 2007	Area	Unemployment Rate, JUN 2005 – MAY 2007
Crawford County	7.1	Scott County	6.1
Floyd County	4.7	Washington County	5.9
Orange County	6.9	Total for Sub-region	5.6

In addition, we are approving the State's request to exempt residents in the following areas based on having an average unemployment rate of at least 20 percent above the national average during June 2005 – May 2007.

Area	Unemployment Rate, JUN 2005 – MAY 2007
Elkhart city	6
South Bend city	6

10. **Regulatory or legislative basis for action:** The 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 indicating that there are insufficient jobs in the affected areas.
13. **Expiration date:** This waiver is approved from April 1, 2008, and will expire on March 31, 2009.
14. **Limitation, if any, on regional office approval of like requests:** This waiver is limited to the Indiana State Agency.
15. **Quality Control Procedures:** N/A
16. **Date of national office action:**
17. **Date of State agency's request:** January 7, 2008
18. **Date of regional office transmittal of response to State agency:**