



United States
Department of
Agriculture

October 2, 2007

SUBJECT: FSP – Louisiana – ABAWD Waiver 2020121

Food and
Nutrition
Service

TO: Judy Barron
Regional Director
Food Stamp Program
Southwest Regional Office

3101 Park
Center Drive

Alexandria, VA
22302-1500

This is in response to your office's email message of September 24, 2007, forwarding a request from the Louisiana Department of Social Services to modify and to extend waiver 2020121. We are approving this request effective November 1, 2007.

Please find attached our detailed response. Please contact Thomas O'Connell if you have questions or need additional information.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Patrick Waldron".

Patrick Waldron, Chief
Certification Policy Branch
Program Development Division

Attachment

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

FINAL:FNS:FSP:PDD:TO'Connell
DIR:I:CPB/Waivers/2008:2020121 LA ABAWD ext. & memo

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Symbol	Surname	Date	Symbol	Surname	Date
	O'Connell				
PD-100	P.Wu	10/2/07			

WAIVER RESPONSE

1. **Waiver Serial Number:** 2020121
2. **Type of Request:** Extension and Modification
3. **Primary regulation citation:** 7 CFR 273.24
4. **Secondary regulation citation:** N/A
5. **State:** Louisiana
6. **Region:** Southwest
7. **Regulatory Requirement:** 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 received benefits because they were 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. **Description of proposed alternative procedures:** The Department of Social Services has requested this waiver for the 61 parishes that appear in item 9. Their combined unemployment rate was 6.3% for the 24-month period of February 1, 2004 through January 31, 2006. 6.3% is 120% of the national unemployment rate for the same period, which was 5.25%
9. **Action and reason for approval or denial:** We are approving the waiver for these 61 parishes. All of the data submitted by the Department of Social Services meet the requirements of 7 CFR 273.24(f)(2) and additional FNS guidance.

Combined Parishes		
February 1, 2004 Through January 31, 2006		
Parish or Metropolitan Statistical Area	Labor Force	Unemployed
Acadia Parish	596,044	32,175
Allen Parish	209,159	17,396
Ascension Parish	1,068,610	63,894
Assumption Parish	245,543	20,846
Avoyelles Parish	381,763	28,534
Beauregard Parish	340,430	22,222
Bienville Parish	148,686	10,563
Caddo Parish	2,785,052	156,674
Calcasieu Parish	2,134,928	130,736
Caldwell Parish	103,366	7,387
Cameron Parish	105,915	5,382
Catahoula Parish	99,209	7,395
Claiborne Parish	166,252	9,929
Concordia Parish	175,025	16,780
De Soto Parish	270,086	17,668
East Baton Rouge Parish	5,025,454	295,056
East Carroll Parish	71,104	8,803
East Feliciana Parish	195,097	12,415
Evangeline Parish	287,722	18,549
Franklin Parish	186,755	15,570
Grant Parish	201,400	12,001
Iberia Parish	771,159	45,642

Combined Parishes		
February 1, 2004 Through January 31, 2006		
Parish or Metropolitan Statistical Area	Labor Force	Unemployed
Iberville Parish	298,907	24,618
Jackson Parish	154,225	8,861
Jefferson Davis Parish	335,512	17,519
La Salle Parish	138,354	7,266
Lafourche Parish	1,074,555	54,318
Lincoln Parish	444,441	27,204
Livingston Parish	1,251,703	70,936
Madison Parish	112,191	9,777
Morehouse Parish	282,629	24,859
Natchitoches Parish	422,676	25,973
Pointe Coupee Parish	233,701	17,673
Rapides Parish	1,395,950	75,038
Red River Parish	82,478	7,096
Richland Parish	204,301	14,854
Sabine Parish	225,790	12,636
St. Helena Parish	99,922	10,066
St. James Parish	213,283	20,162
St. Landry Parish	863,204	54,534
St. Martin Parish	535,867	28,539
St. Mary Parish	531,170	42,744
Tangipahoa Parish	1,185,564	91,570
Tensas Parish	54,869	5,783

Combined Parishes		
February 1, 2004 Through January 31, 2006		
Parish or Metropolitan Statistical Area	Labor Force	Unemployed
Terrebonne Parish	1,201,294	65,110
Union Parish	250,518	14,493
Vermilion Parish	556,922	30,455
Vernon Parish	492,786	25,602
Washington Parish	390,307	32,210
Webster Parish	460,950	27,896
West Baton Rouge Parish	248,921	15,802
West Carroll Parish	112,113	12,098
West Feliciana Parish	116,036	8,098
Winn Parish	147,695	8,846
New Orleans-Metairie-Kenner Metropolitan Statistical Area (contains Jefferson, Orleans, Plaquemines, St. Bernard, St. Charles, St. John the Baptist, and St. Tammany Parishes)	14,336,759	903,649
Total for 61 Parishes	44,024,352	2,751,902
Unemployment Rate	6.3%	

10. **Regulatory or legislative basis for action:** 273.24(f)(3)(iii).
11. **Conditions and reasons:** None.
12. **Information required for extension:** Data described in 7 CFR 273.24(f)(2). If the Department of Social Services wishes to receive an extension based on unemployment rates, they must provide us with all supporting documentation, including spreadsheets in digital form.
13. **Expiration date:** October 31, 2008.
14. **Limitation, if any, on regional office approval of like requests:** This waiver is limited to the Louisiana Department of Social Services.
15. **Quality control procedures:** None.

16. **Date of national office action:**
17. **Date of State agency's request:** September 24, 2007
18. **Date of regional office transmittal of request:** September 24, 2007
19. **Date of regional office transmittal of response to State agency:**
20. **Actual implementation date:**