

August 18, 2008

2020121

SUBJECT: FSP – Louisiana Waiver Request – 7 CFR 273.24

TO: Judy Barron, Regional Director
Food Stamp Program
Southwest Region

This is in response to your e-mail of July 22, 2008, forwarding the Louisiana State Agency's request to modify and extend their waiver to exempts individuals from the work requirements of 7 CFR 273.24. The waiver request is based upon data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics indicating individual and aggregate unemployment rates 20 percent above the national average during a recent 24-month period in 55 parishes.

Our response approving the State's request is attached. If you have any questions, please contact Melissa Daigle Katz at Melissa.DaigleKatz@fns.usda.gov.

Angela Kline
for
Patrick Waldron, Chief
Certification Policy Branch
Program Development Division

Attachment

cc: All Regions (except SWRO)
Dan Wilusz, PAAD w/Attachment
Bob Dalrymple, ORNA w/Attachment
John Knaus, PDB w/Attachment

FINAL:FNS:FSP:PDD:CPB:MDaigleKatz:rh:415-705-1323,ext.304:08-15-08

Laj:08/18/08

DIR:I:CPB/Waivers/2008:2020121 LA ABAWD mod & ext:LA ABWAD mod & ext
Approval

WAIVER RESPONSE

1. **Waiver serial number:** 2020121
2. **Type of request:** Modification and Extension
3. **Primary regulation citation:** 7 CFR 273.24
4. **Secondary regulation citation:** None
5. **State:** Louisiana
6. **Region:** Southwest
7. **Regulatory requirements:** The Food Stamp Program regulations at 7 CFR 273.24(b), provide 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; or did not participate in and comply with requirements of a program under Section 20 or a comparable program established by the State.

The Food Stamp Program regulations at 7 CFR 273.24(f) also provide that, upon the request of a State agency, the Food and Nutrition Service 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:** Louisiana is requesting a modification and extension of their existing waiver to exempt residents residing in 55 parishes enumerated below from the work requirements of 7 CFR 273.24 due to unemployment rates 20 percent above the national average for the 24-month period of January 2005 through December 2006, when the national average unemployment rate plus 20 percent was 5.8.

Parish	Unemployment Rate
Acadia Parish	4.5
Allen Parish	6.9
Assumption Parish	7.1
Avoyelles Parish	6.1
Beauregard Parish	5.5
Bienville Parish	5.6
Calcasieu Parish	5.3
Caldwell Parish	5.3

Cameron Parish	4.5
Catahoula Parish	6.4
Claiborne Parish	5.1
Concordia Parish	7.9
De Soto Parish	5.4
East Carroll Parish	9.9
East Feliciana Parish	5.4
Evangeline Parish	5.5
Franklin Parish	7.1
Grant Parish	4.8
Iberia Parish	4.8
Iberville Parish	7.0
Jackson Parish	4.7
Jefferson Davis Parish	4.4
La Salle Parish	4.1
Lincoln Parish	5.3
Madison Parish	7.1
Morehouse Parish	7.3
Natchitoches Parish	5.3
Pointe Coupee Parish	6.4
Rapides Parish	4.7
Red River Parish	6.9
Richland Parish	5.9
Sabine Parish	4.6
St. Helena Parish	10.3
St. James Parish	8.0
St. Landry Parish	5.4
St. Martin Parish	4.5
St. Mary Parish	6.2
Tangipahoa Parish	6.8
Tensas Parish	10.0
Union Parish	4.9
Vermilion Parish	4.5
Vernon Parish	4.5
Washington Parish	7.5
Webster Parish	4.9
West Baton Rouge Parish	5.2
West Carroll Parish	8.0
West Feliciana Parish	6.2
Winn Parish	5.0
New Orleans-Metairie-Kenner Metropolitan Statistical Area	6.0

(contains Jefferson, Orleans, Plaquemines, St. Bernard, St. Charles, St. John the Baptist, and St. Tammany Parishes)

5.8

Total for Sub-region

2020121

9. **Action and reason for approval or denial:** We are approving the State agency's request to waive the work requirements of 7 CFR 274.24 based on data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics that demonstrates that the 55 parishes above experienced unemployment rates 20 percent above the national average during the 24-month period of January 2005 through December 2006, when the national average unemployment rate plus 20 percent was 5.8.
10. **Regulatory or legislative basis for action:** This waiver is approved pursuant to 7 CFR 273.24(f)(2)(ii), which requires the Food and Nutrition Service (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 residents reside has insufficient jobs.
11. **Conditions and reasons:** N/A
12. **Information required for extension:** To receive an extension the State agency must provide verifiable data indicating that there are insufficient jobs in the State as outlined in 7 CFR 273.24(f).
13. **Expiration date:** The waiver is approved from November 1, 2008 and will expire on October 31, 2009.
14. **Limitation, if any, on regional office approval of like requests:** This waiver is limited to the Louisiana State agency.
15. **Quality control procedures:** N/A
16. **Date of national office action:** August 18, 2008
17. **Date of State agency's request:** July 21, 2008
18. **Date of regional office transmittal of request to national office:** July 22, 2008
19. **Date of regional office transmittal of response to State agency:**
20. **Actual implementation date:**