

February 28, 2008

Subject: FSP – Maryland ABAWD Waiver Request

To: William Kluxen, Regional Director
Food Stamp Program
MARO

This is in response to the State of Maryland's ABAWD waiver request, 2060034, which requests approval of two counties and one city, effective March 1, 2008.

The waiver has been approved as requested. For your review, attached is our waiver response.

If you have any questions, please contact Dwight Ricker, 703-305-2486.

/s/

Harriet Kornegay
Assistant Branch Chief
Certification Policy Branch
Policy Development Division

FINAL:FNS:FSP:PDD:CPB:DRicker:laj:02/28/08
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WAIVER RESPONSE

1. **Waiver serial number:** 2060034
2. **Type of request:** Modification and Extension
3. **Primary regulation citation:** CFR 273.24(f)
4. **Secondary regulation citation:**
5. **State:** Maryland
6. **Region:** MARO
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 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, 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 the proposed alternative procedures:**
The State of Maryland is requesting a 1-yr waiver for 2 counties and 1 city in the State based on having an average unemployment rate of at least 20% above the national average during June 2005 — May 2007. The national average unemployment rate plus twenty percent during June 2005 — May 2007 was 5.6.

AREA	UNEMPLOYMENT RATE JUNE 2005 — MAY 2007
Allegany County	5.8
Dorchester County	5.6
Baltimore City	6.4

- 9. Action and reason for approval or denial:**
We are approving the Maryland State agency's request to extend waiver 970073, which exempts three jurisdictions based on having an average unemployment of 20 percent above the national average for the accounting period June 2005-May 2007. All data supporting the unemployment averages has been extracted from the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) website.
- 10. Regulatory or legislative basis for action:** The waiver is approved pursuant to 7 CFR 273.24(f), which allows FNS to waive the work requirements for any group of individuals if FNS determines the area, has an insufficient number of jobs.
- 11. Conditions and Reasons:** N/A
- 12. Information required for extension:** To receive an extension, the State must provide data indicating that there are insufficient jobs in certain areas throughout the state..
- 13. Expiration date:** This waiver is effective March 1, 2008, and it will expire on February 28, 2009.
- 14. Limitation on regional office approval of like requests:** This waiver is limited to the Maryland State agency.
- 15. Quality Control procedures:** None