

February 10, 2006

970315

**SUBJECT:** FSP – Maine – ABAWD Waiver

**TO:** Mary Ann Ferris  
Regional Director  
Food Stamp Program  
Northeast Region

This is in response to your request to waive various jurisdictions in the State of Maine from the work requirements of Section 6(o) of the Food Stamp Act, as amended by Section 824 of the Personal Responsibilities and Work Opportunity Act of 1996.

The state based their request on unemployment data provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, which indicates that the requested areas exceeded the national unemployment rate by 20 percent for corresponding accounting periods.

Our response is attached. If you have any questions, please e-mail Dwight Ricker.

/s/  
Harriet Kornegay  
Assistant Chief  
Certification Policy Branch  
Program Development Division

FINAL:USDA:FNS:FSP:PDD:CPB:Dricker:2/3/06:so  
DIR:I:CPB:WAIVERS:2006:970315 ME ABAWD

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## WAIVER RESPONSE

1. **Waiver serial number:** 970315
2. **Type of request:** Extension
3. Primary regulation citation, if any: 7 CFR 273.24
4. **Secondary regulation citation, if any:**
5. **State:** Maine
6. **Region:** Northeast
7. **Regulatory requirements:** The Food Stamp Program Regulations at 7 CFR 273.24 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) allow States the opportunity to request a waiver when it is determined that the area in which the individual resides has an unemployment rate over 10 percent; or there are not sufficient jobs to provide employment for the individuals. The regulations at 7 CFR 273.24(f) establish the procedures for approving such waivers.

8. **Proposed procedures:** The three month time limit for ABAWDs would not apply in the waived jurisdictions, for the reasons that are explained in item 9.
9. **Action and reason for approval or denial:** The following jurisdictions qualify for a waiver together; based upon the weighted average unemployment rate from calendar years 2003/2004, exceed the national unemployment rate for the same period by 20 percent. (Threshold 6.9 percent)

Area	Unemployment Rate, CY 2003-2004
Franklin County	5.9
Oxford County	6.2
Piscataquis County	7.5
Somerset County	8.1
<b>Total for Region</b>	<b>6.9</b>

The following areas also qualify for waivers because their individual unemployment rates exceed the national average by 20 percent for calendar years 2003/2004.

<b>AREA</b>	<b>Unemployment Rate Calendar Years 2003-2004</b>	<b>AREA</b>	<b>Unemployment Rate Calendar Years 2003-2004</b>
Washington county	8.6	Limestone town	11.4
Acton town	7.0	Lincoln LMA	9.5
Allagash town	27.4	Livermore Falls town	8.4
Alton town	7.2	Lowell town	7.3
Ashland town	8.1	Madrid town	7.0
Aurora town	7.5	Medford town	11.5
Avon town	7.2	Millinocket LMA	21.8
		Milton unorganized	7.3
Bar Harbor town	6.9	Moscow town	8.0
Bradford town	8.3	Newport town	7.8
Burnham town	10.1	Oxbow plantation	10.5
Caswell plantation	14.5	Passadumkeag town	8.2
Central Aroostook unorganized	13.3	Plymouth town	8.7
		Sanford Micropolitan NECTA	7.1
Clifton town	8.1	Sherman town	9.3
Clinton town	8.1	Smyrna town	8.4
Connor unorganized	7.9	St. Albans town	8.8
Corinna town	8.4	St. Francis town	13.1
Dexter town	8.0	St. John plantation	9.1
Dyer Brook town	15.5	Stetson town	7.9
Eagle Lake town	16.4	Stockholm town	9.9
Enfield town	7.9	Troy town	7.7
Etna town	8.6	Upton town	21.4
Franklin town	8.2	Van Buren town	7.2
Freedom town	7.3	Wallagrass plantation	12.1
Garland town	9.8		
Grand Isle town	8.7		
Houlton LMA	7.1		
Howland town	9.6		

The following areas qualify for waivers because their individual unemployment rate exceeds the national average by 20 percent for calendar years 2002/2003. (Threshold 7.1 percent).

<b>AREA</b>	<b>Unemployment Rate Calendar Years 2002-2003</b>	<b>AREA</b>	<b>Unemployment Rate Calendar Years 2002-2003</b>
Alfred town	8.6	Gouldsboro town	7.2
Bowdoin town	7.3	Lincoln plantation	15.1
Byron town	7.3	Ripley town	9.1
Exeter town	8.1	Rochester-Dover, NH-ME Metropolitan NECTA, ME part	7.2
Gilead town	7.4	Thorndike town	7.4
		Unity town	7.1

The following area was approved because it had an unemployment rate of 7.1 percent, which exceeds the threshold of 7.0 percent, for the time period July 2003/June 2005: Vienna Town

The following areas qualify for waivers because their individual unemployment rates exceed the national average by 20 percent for the time period July 2003/June 2005. The request includes areas of the State with an average unemployment rate of at least 6.6 percent during July 2003-June 2005. The threshold is 6.6 percent.

<b>AREA</b>	<b>Unemployment Rate July 2003-June 2005</b>	<b>AREA</b>	<b>Unemployment Rate July 2003-June 2005</b>
Amherst town	7.1		
Fort Kent town	6.7	Ogunquit town	6.8
Frankfort town	7.3	Perham town	6.7
Liberty town	6.6	Webster plantation	8.0
Maxfield town I	9.5		

**10. Regulatory or legislative basis for action:** This modification is approved pursuant to 7 CFR 273.24 (f) which allows the Secretary to waive the applicability of the work requirement provision in 7 CFR 273.24 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 over 10 percent or has insufficient jobs. This approval is retroactive to November 1, 2005.

**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:** October 31, 2006

14. **Limitations, if any, on regional office approval of like requests:** This waiver is limited to the Maine Department of Health and Human Services.
15. **Quality Control Procedures:** N/A
16. **.Date of national office action:**
17. **Date of State agency's request:**
18. **Date of regional office transmittal of request:**
19. **Date of regional office transmittal of response to State agency:**
20. **Actual implementation date:**