

JAN 17 2007

2040026

SUBJECT: FSP – Michigan Waiver Request to Extend 7 CFR 273.24

TO: Timothy English, Regional Director  
Food Stamp Program  
Midwest Region

This is in response to your e-mail of December 18, 2006, forwarding the Michigan State Agency's request of December 12, 2006, to extend their existing statewide ABAWD Waiver #2040026. The Michigan State Agency is requesting this waiver due to them having a State unemployment rate (6.8 percent) that is 20 percent above the national average rate (6.0 percent) for the period of October 2004 through September 2006.

The State of Michigan has an average unemployment rate of at least 20 percent of the national average during a recent 24-month time period. All their data used are from the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) website.

We are approving this request effective March 1, 2007 through February 29, 2008. Our response approving the waiver is attached. If you have any questions, please contact Jennie Nelson by e-mail or telephone at (703) 305-2446.

SIGNED

Harriet Kornegay  
Assistant Branch Chief  
Certification Policy Branch  
Program Development Division

Attachment

cc: PAD/QC w/attachment  
John Knaus w/attachment  
David Young, PDD w/attachment  
All Regions w/attachment

FINAL:FNS:FSP:PDD:CPB:JNELSON:1/17/07  
DIR:I:CPB/WAIVERS:FY2007: 2040026 – MI ABAWD (Ext.)

Symbol	Person	Date
PDD/B	Nelson Kornegay	1/17/07 1/17/07

## WAIVER RESPONSE

1. **Waiver serial number:** 2040026
2. **Type of request:** Extension and Modification
3. **Primary regulation citation:** 7 CFR 273.24
4. **Secondary regulation citation:**
5. **State:** Michigan
6. **Region:** Midwest Region
7. **Regulatory Requirements:** The Food Stamp Program regulations at 7 CFR 273.24(b), provide that an individual is 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.

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 (FNS) may waive the applicability of the above provision for any group of individuals in the State if 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:** Michigan is requesting an extension and modification of their current statewide ABAWD waiver based upon the State having an average unemployment rate that is at least 20 percent above the national average during a recent 24-month period of October 2004 through September 2006. Their supporting data is from the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) website.
9. **Action and reason for approval or denial:** We are approving Michigan's Statewide waiver request for an extension and modification of waiver #2040026 based on a 24-month total labor force (122,465,234), total unemployment for 24-month (8,309,809) which equal to an unemployment rate of 6.8, which exceeds the 20 percent threshold of 6.0 percent of the national average for the period of October 2004 through September 2006. This is based on the BLS website data.

10. **Regulatory or legislative basis for action:** This waiver is approved under the authority of 7 CFR 273.24(f)(2)(ii), 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 Michigan 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:** This waiver is approved effective March 1, 2007 through February 29, 2008.
14. **Limitation on regional office approval of like requests:** This waiver is limited only to the Michigan State Agency.
15. **Quality Control Procedures:** N/A
16. **Date of national office action:**
17. **Date of State Agency's request:** December 12, 2006
18. **Date of regional office transmittal of request to National Office:** December 18, 2006
19. **Date of regional office transmittal of response to State agency:**
20. **Actual implementation date:**