

WAIVER RESPONSE

1. **Waiver serial number:** 2070002
2. **Type of request:** Modification and Extension
3. **Primary regulation citation:**
Food Stamp Regulations 7 CFR 273.24
4. **Secondary regulation citation:**
Food Stamp Regulations 7 CFR 273.24 (f) (3) (iii)
5. **State:** Missouri
6. **Region:** Mountain Plains
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 determines 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.

In addition, 7 CFR 273.24 (f) (3) (iii) permits states to use “data from the BLS or the BLS cooperating agency that an area has a 24-month average unemployment rate that exceeds the national average by 20 percent for any 24-month period no earlier than the same periods the ETA used to designate LSAs for the current fiscal year.”
8. **Description of Proposed Alternative Procedures:**
Missouri is requesting to waive the time limits for individuals residing in two counties and six sub-regions within the state based on an aggregate average unemployment rate of at least 20 percent above the national average during 24-month period August 2004 to July 2006. Each one of these areas is either a region defined by the Missouri Economic Research and Information Center of the

Missouri Department of Economic Development or a contiguous part (sub-region) thereof.

9. Action and reason for approval or denial:

We are approving the State's request to waive residents of Dent and Wright Counties based on having an average unemployment rate of 20 percent above the national average during August 2004 through July 2006, when the national average unemployment rate plus 20 percent was 6.0.

Area	Unemployment Rate, Aug 04 – July 06
Dent County	6.5
Wright County	6.1

We are approving the State's request to waive residents of contiguous sub-regions that are eligible based on aggregate average unemployment rates of at least 20 percent above the national average during August 2004 through July 2006, when the national average unemployment rate plus 20 percent was 6.0.

In each of the sub-regions, there is at least one county that has an average unemployment rate at least 20 percent above the national average during August 2004 through July 2006. Due to the proximity of the surrounding counties and the location of employers, the unemployment rate of individual counties has an impact on counties in the region.

Sub-region of Greater Kansas City Region:

Area	Unemployment rate, Aug 04 – July 06	Area	Unemployment rate Aug 04 – July 06
Bates County	6.2	Jackson County	6.2
Caldwell County	5.5	Lafayette County	5.2
Cass County	4.7	Ray County	5.2
Total for sub-region			6.0

Sub-region of West Central Region:

Area	Unemployment Rate, Aug 04 – July 06	Area	Unemployment Rate, Aug 04 – July 06
Henry County	6.0	St. Clair County	5.8
Total for sub-region			6.0

Sub-region of Greater St. Louis Region:

Area	Unemployment Rate, Aug 04 – July 06	Area	Unemployment Rate, Aug 04 – July 06
Crawford County	6.1	Gasconade County	5.8
		Total for region	6.0

Sub-region of Upper South Central Region:

Area	Unemployment Rate, Aug 04 – July 06	Area	Unemployment Rate, Aug 04 – July 06
Miller County	5.9	Morgan County	6.4
		Total for sub-region	6.1

Sub-region of Upper Southeast Region:

Area	Unemployment Rate, Aug 04 – July 06	Area	Unemployment Rate, Aug 04 – July 06
Bollinger County	5.9	Ste. Genevieve County	5.5
Madison	6.0	St. Francois County	6.5
		Total for sub-region	6.2

Sub-region of Lower Southeast Region:

Area	Unemployment Rate, Aug 04 – July 06	Area	Unemployment Rate, Aug 04 – July 06
Carter County	6.4	Ripley	5.9
		Total for sub-region	6.1

10. **Regulatory or legislative basis for action:** This waiver is approved pursuant to 7 CFR 273.24(f)(1)(ii), which allows the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) to waive the applicability of the work requirement provision in 7 CFR 273.24 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 an insufficient number of jobs.

11. **Conditions and reasons:** N/A
12. **Information required for extension:** Please submit supporting unemployment data that relies on standard Bureau of Labor Statistics data and/or methods and data indicating unemployment over 10 percent or a lack of sufficient jobs.
13. **Expiration date:** This waiver is effective April 1, 2007 through March 31, 2008.
14. **Limitation on regional office approval of like requests:** This waiver is limited to the Missouri State Agency.
15. **Quality Control Procedures:** N/A.
16. **Date of national office action:**
17. **Date of State agency's request:** January 16, 2007.
18. **Date of regional office transmittal of State agency's request to the national office:** January 23, 2007.
19. **Date of regional office transmittal of response to State agency:**