

NOV 08 2006

2070002

SUBJECT: FSP – Missouri Request to Waive 7 CFR 273.24 – Work Requirements (ABAWDs)

TO: Sonny Bryant, Regional Director
Food Stamp Program
Mountain Plains Region

This is in response to your email of October 5, 2006, forwarding the Missouri State Agency's request for an amendment to waiver #970129 which exempts certain individuals from the work requirements of 7 CFR 273.24. The State bases its determination of insufficient jobs on U.S. Department of Labor data. Since the counties and sub-regions to be added are for five months from November 1, 2006 through March 31, 2007 and the current waiver is for a two-year period. These new jurisdictions don't qualify for inclusion in waiver #970129. Therefore, we are approving this request as a separate waiver.

Our response approving the waiver under #2070002 is attached. If you have any questions, please contact Celeste Perkins of my staff at (703) 305-2507.

SIGNED

Harriet Kornegay
Assistant Branch Chief
Certification Policy Branch
Program Development Division

Attachment

cc: All Regions (except MPRO)
Mike DePiro (OANE)
John Knaus
Civil Rights

FINAL:USDA:FNS:FSP:PDD:CPB:CPerkins:mcl:11/02/06
DIR:I:CPB:Waivers: 2007: 2070002 Missouri ABAWD (Initial '06)

Symbol	Signature	Date	Typed	Supervisor	Date
	Perkins	11-03-06			

WAIVER RESPONSE

1. **Waiver serial number:** 2070002
2. **Type of request:** Initial
3. **Primary regulation citation:** 7 CFR 273.24
4. **Secondary regulation citation:**
5. **State:** Missouri
6. **Region:** MPRO
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.

8. **Description of proposed alternative procedures:** The Missouri State agency is requesting an addendum to its current waiver for individuals who reside in areas that do not have a sufficient number of jobs to provide employment for individuals subject to 7 CFR 273.24.

Missouri is requesting an addendum to waiver #970129 to exempt from the work requirements 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 periods November 2003 – October 2005 and August 2004 – July 2006. Missouri is also requesting Clark County based on having an average unemployment rate of 20 percent above the national average during November 2003 through October 2005, when the national average unemployment rate plus 20 percent was 6.4. In addition, Missouri is requesting to waive residents in 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. The current waiver #970129 was approved for a 2-year period for different counties and sub-regions. However, to align the expiration dates of both waivers, the State Agency is only requesting these areas for a five month period from November 1, 2006 through March 31, 2007.

9. **Action and reason for approval or denial:** We are approving the State Agency's request to exempt residents in the six additional contiguous sub-areas of the Economic Regions (see below tables) based on aggregate average unemployment rates of at least 20 percent above the national average during 24-month periods November 2003 – October 2005 and August 2004 – July 2006 that were not included in the current waiver 970129 for the requested five month period from November 1, 2006 through March 31, 2007. However, we consider this waiver to be a separate waiver request from 970129 because the new jurisdictions don't qualify for inclusion in waiver 970129 and will therefore be approved under a new number of 2070002. All of the supporting raw data is located on the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) website.

We are approving the State's request to waive residents in Clark County based on having an average unemployment rate of 20 percent above the national average during November 2003 through October 2005, when the national average unemployment rate plus 20 percent was 6.4.

Area	Unemployment Rate, Nov 2003 – Oct 2005
Clark County	6.4

We are approving the State's request to waive residents in 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 for 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 November 1, 2006 through March 31, 2007.
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:** October 4, 2006

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18. **Date of regional office transmittal of State agency's request to the national office:** October 5, 2006

19. **Date of regional office transmittal of response to State agency:**