

February 27, 2008

2070002

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

TO: Jody Cornwell, Regional Director
Food Stamp Program
Mountain Plains Region

This is in response to your email of January 24, 2008, forwarding the Missouri State Agency's request to extend and modify its current ABAWD waiver #2070002 for six sub-regions within the state 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. Under the proposed waiver, residents of the counties and sub-regions subject to the provisions of 273.24 would be exempt for a period of one year based on having aggregate average unemployment rates of at least 20 percent above the national average for a 24-month period prior to the date of the request.

Please find attached our response approving further modification of this waiver. If you have any questions, please contact Celeste Perkins at (703) 305-2507.

Patrick Waldron
for
Harriet Kornegay
Assistant Branch Chief
Certification Policy Branch
Program Development Division

Attachment

cc: All Regions (except MPRO)

Final: USDA: FNS: FSP: PDD: CPB: CPerkins: laj: 02/26/08
DIR:I:CPB:Waivers: 2008: 2070002 Missouri ABAWD Ext. and Mod III.

Symbol	Surname	Date	Symbol	Surname	Date

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WAIVER RESPONSE

1. **Waiver serial number:** 2070002
2. **Type of request:** Modification and Extension
3. **Primary regulation citation:** 7 CFR 273.24
4. **Secondary regulation citation:** 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 extend and modify its current ABAWD waiver for six-sub-regions within the State. These 38 contiguous counties are eligible based on aggregate average unemployment rates of at least 20 percent above the national average during March 2005 through February 2007, when the national average unemployment rate plus 20 percent was 5.7.
9. **Action and reason for approval or denial:** We are approving the State’s request to waive 36 counties and two cities in six sub-regions based on having aggregate average unemployment rates of at least 20 percent above the national average during March 2005 through February 2007, when the national average unemployment rate plus 20 percent was 5.7.

Sub-region of Greater Kansas City Region

Area	Unemployment Rate, Mar.2005 – Feb. 2007
Bates County	5.8
Benton County	5.9
Caldwell County	5.4
Cass County	4.7
Henry County	5.7
Hickory County	7.3
Jackson County	5.8
Lafayette County	4.9
Ray County	5.1
St. Clair County	5.9
Total	5.7

Sub-region of Greater Upper South Central Region

Miller County	5.4
Morgan County	6.6
Total	5.9

Sub-region of Greater Lower Southeast Region

Dunkin County	7.4
Mississippi County	6.9
New Madrid County	6.8
Pemiscot County	7.1
Total	7.9

Sub-region of Greater Springfield Region

Stone County	7.1
Taney County	7.6
Total	7.1

Sub-region of Greater Upper Southeast Region

Area	Unemployment Rate, Mar.2005 – Feb. 2007
Bollinger County	5.6
Carter County	6.1
Crawford County	6.0
Dent County	6.2
Gasconade County	5.5
Iron County	6.2
Laciede County	5.1
Madison County	5.9
Reynolds County	7.3

Ripley County	6.0
Shannon County	7.0
St. Francois County	6.2
Ste. Genevieve City	5.0
Texas County	6.0
Washington County	8.2
Wayne County	6.7
Wright County	5.8
Total	5.7

St. Louis City	7.2
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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, 2008 through March 31, 2009.
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:** December 18, 2007.
18. **Date of regional office transmittal of State agency's request to the national office:** January 24, 2008.
19. **Date of regional office transmittal of response to State agency:**