

June 1, 2005

2030065

SUBJECT: FSP – Ohio ABAWD – Request to Extend Waiver of 7 CFR 273.24

TO: Tim English, Regional Director  
Food Stamp Program  
Midwest Regional Office

This is in response to your memorandum of May 12, 2005, forwarding the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services' request to extend and modify waiver 2030065. Under the waiver, individuals residing in seven counties would be exempt from the work requirements of 7 CFR 273.24 based on an unemployment rate greater than 10 percent for a 12-month period, March 2004 through February 2005. Under the current waiver, which will expire on June 30, 2005, residents of six counties are exempt from the work requirements. The modification would add two new counties while removing the exemption for one of the currently exempt counties, which would no longer qualify for an exemption based on its unemployment rate for the period covered by the waiver.

Our response approving the waiver is attached. If you have any questions, please contact Larry Tropp at 703-305-2504.

/s/

Harriet Kornegay  
Assistant Chief  
Certification Policy Branch  
Program Development Division

Attachment

cc: All Regions (except MWRO)  
Bob Dalrymple, OANE  
Kate Fink, OANE  
David Young, National Arbitrator  
Civil Rights

FINAL:FNS:FSP:PDD:CPB:LTROPP:5/25/05:je  
File:I:CPB:Waivers:FY 2005: 2030065 OH 2005 extension

## WAIVER REQUEST

1. **Waiver Serial Number:** 2030065
2. **Type of Request:** Extension and modification
3. **Primary Regulation Citation:** 7 CFR 273.24
4. **Secondary Regulation Citation:** None
5. **State:** Ohio
6. **Region:** Midwest
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 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 for the individuals.

8. **Proposed Alternative Procedures:** The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services is requesting an extension and modification of its current waiver that exempts individuals from the provisions of 7 CFR 273.24, based on unemployment rate greater than 10 percent for a recent 12-month period.

Under the modified waiver, residents of Adams, Meigs, Morgan, Perry and Vinton Counties would continue to be exempt from the work requirements of 7 CFR 273.24 based on an unemployment rate greater than 10 percent for the 12-month period from March 2004 through February 2005. In addition to those counties currently exempt from the work requirements of 7 CFR 273.24 the State is proposing to add Coshocton and Monroe Counties. Since its 12-month unemployment rate has fallen below 10 percent, Pike County, which is currently exempt, has not been included in this request although it would qualify for an exemption based on its designation as a Labor Surplus Area for FY 2005.

9. **Action and reason for approval or denial:** We are approving the State agency's request to extend and modify its current waiver.

As indicated in the table below, each of the requested counties has a 12-month rate unemployment rate (covering the period March 2004 through February 2005) in excess of 10 percent.

COUNTY	TOTAL LABOR FORCE	TOTAL UNEMPLOYED	UNEMPLOYMENT RATE (ROUNDED)
Adams	138133	15942	11.5%
Coshocton	209154	22563	10.8%
Meigs	85291	12324	14.4%
Monroe	69181	8473	12.2%
Morgan	54614	8815	16.1%
Perry	183831	20303	11.0%
Vinton	47580	5472	11.5%

10. **Regulatory or legislative basis for action:** This waiver is approved under 7 CFR 273.24(f)(3)(i), which provides for the approval of waivers by FNS if data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) or a BLS cooperating agency shows that an area has an unemployment rate greater than 10 percent for a recent 12-month period.
11. **Conditions and reasons:** The State agency may not revise this waiver by adding or removing any counties without the prior approval of FNS.
12. **Information required for extension:** To receive an extension the State agency must provide unemployment rate data for the affected areas compiled by the BLS or its cooperating agency or calculated using census share data and labor force data supplied by BLS or its cooperating agency indicating an unemployment rate greater than 10 percent or a lack of sufficient jobs.
13. **Expiration date:** As requested by the State agency this waiver will be effective July 1, 2005, and will expire on June 30, 2006. The State's current waiver will remain in effect through June 30, 2005.
14. **Limitation on regional office approval of like requests:** This waiver is limited to the Ohio State Agency.
15. **Quality Control Procedures:** N/A

**16. Date of national office action:**

2030065

Page 3

**17. Date of State Agency's request:** May 12, 2005

**18. Date of regional office transmittal of response to national office:** May 2, 2005

**19. Actual implementation date:**