

April 8, 2004

2000039

SUBJECT: Oregon – ABAWD Extension Request – 24-month Unemployment Rate  
20 Percent Above the National Average

TO: Dennis Stewart  
Regional Director  
Food Stamp Program  
Western Region

This is in response to your memorandum dated March 16, 2004, which transmitted a request from the State of Oregon for a statewide extension of their ABAWD waiver, 2000039, due to a 24-month unemployment rate that exceeds the national average by 20 percent or more. Oregon's statewide unemployment rate is 7.67 percent for the 24-month period, January 2002 through December 2003.

Our response is attached. If you have any questions, please contact Patricia Maggi at (703) 305-2468.

/s/

Harriet Kornegay  
Acting Chief  
Program Development Division

Attachment

cc: All Regions (except WRO) w/Attachment  
PAD-QC w/Attachment  
David Young w/Attachment  
Bob Dalrymple-OAE w/Attachment  
Mike DePiro-OAE w/Attachment  
Civil Rights w/Attachment

File:I:CPB:Waivers:FY2004:2000039- OR 2004 extension:Pmaggi:03-31-04

## WAIVER RESPONSE

1. **Waiver Serial Number:** 2000039
2. **Type of Request:** Extension
3. **Primary regulation citation:** 7 CFR 273.24
4. **Secondary regulation citation:** N/A
5. **State:** Oregon
6. **Region:** Western
7. **Regulatory Requirement:** 7 CFR 273.24 provides that no individual shall be 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; did not participate in and comply with the requirements of a work program for 20 hours or more per week; did not participate in and comply with requirements of a program under Section 20 or a comparable program established by the State; or received benefits because they were exempt from these requirements.

7 CFR 273.24(f) also provides that, upon the request of a State agency, the Secretary may waive the applicability of the above provision for any group of individuals in the State if the Secretary 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.** Oregon's FY 2003 waiver expires on April 30, 2004. The entire State is presently exempt due to a 24-month unemployment rate that is 20 percent above the national average. Oregon's unemployment rate for December 2000 to November 2003 is 6.75; this is 20 percent greater than the 5.2 national unemployment rate for the same time period.

Oregon is now asking for another statewide exemption. Its 24-month unemployment rate for January 2002 through December 2003 is 7.67 percent. The national average unemployment rate for the same period is 5.9 percent. Oregon provided data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics website (<http://data.bls.gov>) to support its request. We re-calculated the State's unemployment rate as follows:

		<b>Labor Force</b>	<b>EMP</b>	<b>UMP</b>
<b>2002</b>	<b>JAN</b>	1830945	1676934	154011

	<b>FEB</b>	1828984	1681121	147863	
	<b>MAR</b>	1829939	1684631	145308	
	<b>APR</b>	1834377	1691986	142391	
	<b>MAY</b>	1829020	1693900	135120	
	<b>JUN</b>	1833979	1698206	135773	
	<b>JUL</b>	1833477	1698106	135371	
	<b>AUG</b>	1835754	1704097	131657	
	<b>SEP</b>	1832589	1701461	131128	
	<b>OCT</b>	1837112	1704947	132165	
	<b>NOV</b>	1840200	1704990	135210	
	<b>DEC</b>	1835950	1702469	133481	
<b>2003</b>	<b>JAN</b>	1848492	1708684	139808	
	<b>FEB</b>	1835805	1702588	133217	
	<b>MAR</b>	1850933	1711117	139816	
	<b>APR</b>	1841977	1694670	147307	
	<b>MAY</b>	1835915	1684642	151273	
	<b>JUN</b>	1852381	1694488	157893	
	<b>JUL</b>	1848687	1696876	151811	
	<b>AUG</b>	1834521	1688116	144628	
	<b>SEP</b>	1809800	1665172	146405	
	<b>OCT</b>	1824786	1685910	138876	
	<b>NOV</b>	1805057	1672471	132586	
	<b>DEC</b>	1820726	1688906	131820	
	<b>TOTAL</b>	44011406	40636488	3374918	
	<b>24MO AVG</b>	1833809	1693187	140621.6	7.668280354

A State's unemployment rate must meet or exceed 7.1 percent (which is 20 percent above the national average) to be exempt. We rounded up Oregon's 7.67 percent unemployment rate to 7.7 percent; this figure exceeds the national unemployment rate by more than 20 percent.

9. **Action and reason for approval or denial:** Based on the data submitted by the State agency, we are approving the whole State of Oregon as exempt from the ABAWDs work requirement. This statewide waiver is approved for one year, effective May 1, 2004.
10. **Regulatory or legislative basis for action:** This waiver is approved pursuant to 7 CFR 273.24(f), which allows 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 over 10 percent, or does not have a sufficient number of jobs to provide employment for the affected individuals.
11. **Conditions and reasons:** N/A

12. **Information required for extension:** To receive an extension, the State agency must provide data from their State Department of Labor and Industrial Relations, its Bureau of Labor Statistics cooperating agency, indicating that the requested areas have unemployment rates over 10 percent or do not have a sufficient number of jobs to provide employment for individuals residing in these areas.
13. **Expiration date:** This waiver will expire on April 30, 2005.
14. **Limitation, if any, on regional office approval of like requests:** This waiver is limited to the Oregon State Agency.
15. **Quality control procedures:** N/A
16. **Date of national office action:**
17. **Date of State agency's request:** February 25, 2004
18. **Date of regional office transmittal of request:** March 16, 2004
19. **Date of regional office transmittal of response to State agency:**
20. **Actual implementation date:**