

April 7, 2006

2000039

SUBJECT: FSP – Oregon Request to Waive 7 CFR 273.24

TO: Dennis Stewart, Regional Director
Food Stamp Program
Western Region

This is in response to your e-mail memorandum of March 14, 2006, forwarding the Oregon State Agency's request for a statewide extension and modification of their ABAWD waiver, 2000039, due to a 36-month unemployment rate that exceeds the national average by 20 percent. Oregon's statewide unemployment rate is 7.2 percent for the 36-month period, January 2003 through December 2005.

Our response is attached. If you have any questions, please contact Jennie Nelson of my staff at (703) 305-2446.

/s/

Harriet Kornegay
Assistant Branch Chief
Certification Policy Branch
Program Development Division

Attachment

cc: All Regions w/attachment
Bob Dalrymple OANE
PAD/QC
David Young

FINAL:FNS:FSP:PDD:CPB:JNELSON:4/7/06:je
DIR:I:CPB:WAIVER: OR ABAWD (Extension & Modification.) FY2006

WAIVER RESPONSE

1. **Waiver serial number:** 2000039
2. **Type of request:** Extension and Modification
3. **Primary regulation citation:** 7 CFR 273.24
4. **Secondary regulation citation, if any:** N/A
5. **State:** Oregon
6. **Region:** Western
7. **Regulatory requirements:** 7 CFR 273.24(b) and Section 6(o) of the Food Stamp Act of 1977, provide that no individual, who is able bodied without a dependent (ABAWD), 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).

7 CFR 273.24(f) and Section 6(o)(4) of the Food Stamp Act of 1977, allow the State the opportunity to request a waiver when it is determined that the area in which the individual resides has an unemployment rate of more than 10 percent; or there are not sufficient jobs to provide employment for the individuals.

8. **Proposed alternative procedures:** Oregon is requesting a statewide waiver extension and modification of their current ABAWD waiver #2000039 because the entire State is presently exempt due to a 36-month unemployment rate that exceeds the national average by 20 percent. Oregon's unemployment rate for January 2003 through December 2005 is 7.3 percent which is 20 percent greater than the 5.5 percent of the national unemployment rate for the same time period. Oregon request is supported by data taken from the Oregon Employment Department website (data attached shows the lack of sufficient jobs).
9. **Action and reason for approval or denial:** We are approving a statewide waiver for Oregon because its unemployment rate for calendar years 2003-2005 exceeded the national average by 20 percent. The average national unemployment rate for calendar years 2003-2005 was 5.5 percent, which inflates to 6.6 percent when increased by 20 percent ($5.5 \times .120 = 6.6$). During the 36 months of calendar years 2003-2005, the State's monthly unemployment rate averaged 7.2 percent. 4802194 (unemployed) / 66714546 (labor force) = 7.2.

10. **Regulatory or legislative basis for action:** This waiver is approved pursuant to 7 CFR 273.24(f)(1)(ii), which allows FNS to waive the applicability of the work requirement provision of 7 CFR 273.24 for any group of individuals in the State if FNS determination that the area in which the individuals reside does not have a sufficient number of jobs to provide employment for the affected individuals, or the areas exceeded the national average unemployment average by 20 percent for 24 consecutive months.
11. **Conditions and reasons:** N/A
12. **Information required for extension:** Please submit supporting unemployment data that relies on standard BLS data/or methods and data that relies on indicating a lack of sufficient jobs. Please show calculations for unemployment rate averages over the 12-month or 24-month time frames.
13. **Expiration date:** The waiver is approved effective May 1, 2006 through April 30, 2008.
14. **Limitation 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:** March 3, 2006
18. **Date of regional office transmittal to the national office:** March 14, 2006
19. **Date of regional transmittal to the state agency:**
20. **Date of implementation by State agency:**