

October 24, 2006

2020019

SUBJECT: FSP – Pennsylvania Request for Extension and Modification of Waiver
2020019

TO: Joseph Weingart, Regional Director
Food Stamp Program
Mid-Atlantic Region

This is in response to the Pennsylvania State Agency's request for an extension and modification of waiver 2020019. Under the proposed waiver modification, the State has requested exemptions from the work requirements of 7 CFR 273.24 for areas in addition to those included in our approval of May 5, 2006.

Because several areas in the request as proposed by the State agency in July would not have qualified for exemptions, the State agency, with the assistance of your office, submitted a revised request in September. Our response approving, in part, the State's second waiver request is attached.

If you have any questions please contact Larry Tropp by email or by telephone at 703-305-2504.

/s/

Harriet Kornegay
Assistant Chief
Certification Policy Branch
Program Development Division

cc: All Regions (except MARO) w/attachments
PAD-QC w/attachment
Bob Dalrymple – OAE w/attachments
David Young w/attachments

Final:USDA:FNS:FSP:PDD:CPB:LTropp:mcl:10/24/06

FILE: ABAWDS - Pennsylvania

DIR:I:CPB:WAIVER:2020019 PA ABAWD extension (Modification) 2006

Symbol	Surname	Date	Symbol	Surname	Date

WAIVER RESPONSE

1. **Waiver serial number:** 2020019
2. **Type of request:** Extension and modification
3. **Primary regulation citation:** 7 CFR 273.24
4. **Secondary regulation citation:**
5. **State:** Pennsylvania
6. **Region:** MARO
7. **Regulatory requirements:** 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; or did not participate in and comply with requirements of a program under Section 20 or a comparable program established by the State.

7 CFR 273.24(f) also provides that, 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 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:** The Pennsylvania State Agency is requesting an extension and modification of waiver 2020019. Under the current waiver Armstrong, Bedford, Berks, Cambria, Cameron, Carbon, Clarion, Clearfield, Clinton, Columbia, Crawford, Delaware, Elk, Fayette, Forest, Huntingdon, Jefferson, Lawrence, Luzerne, McKean, Mifflin, Northumberland Schuylkill, Somerset, Venango, Warren and Westmoreland Counties and the cities of Allentown, Erie, Harrisburg, Hazleton, McKeesport, New Castle, Reading, Wilkes-Barre, Williamsport, and York based on an average unemployment rate of at least 20 percent above the national average during a recent 24-month period.

Listed below are all of the areas included the State agency's most recent request, which was submitted in September after our office discovered errors in formulas originally used the calculations used by the State agency to support the request as originally submitted in July.

Region 1:

Area	Labor Force	Unemployed	Unemployment Rate, Feb. 2003- Jan 2005 (5.77%) (Approval threshold 6.9%)
Carbon	719939	48784	
Columbia	797999	51735	
Luzerne	74010	4326	
Sullivan	794705	66409	
Reading City (in Berks Co)	342182	23244	
Williamsport (in Lycoming Co)	719939	48784	
Total	2728835	194498	7.1%

Region 2:

Area	Labor Force	Unemployed	Unemployment Rate, Mar. 2003- Feb. 2005 (5.7%) (Approval threshold 6.8%)
Mifflin	542214	35825	
Northumberland	1104529	72578	
Schuylkill	1680779	115330	
Union	423046	22789	
Total for Sub-region	3750568	246522	6.6%

Region 3:

Area	Labor Force	Unemployed	Unemployment Rate, Feb. 2003 – Jan. 2005 (5.77%) (Approval threshold 6.9%)
Bedford	574742	45749	
Cambria	1611051	110618	
Cameron	63384	4619	
Clearfield	990485	69506	
Clinton	451813	30573	
Elk	419526	25073	
Fulton	177730	9320	
Huntingdon	517731	37287	
Indiana	1058403	64289	
Jefferson	529589	32583	
Potter	205077	14458	
Somerset	937615	61376	
Total	7537146	505451	6.7%

Region 4

Area	Labor Force	Unemployed	Unemployment Rate, Feb. 2003 – Jan. 2005 (5.77%) (Approval threshold 6.9%)
Crawford	1010784	67280	
Forest	54031	6389	
Mercer	1342315	83645	
Venango	634090	38796	
Total	3041220	196110	6.4%

Region 5:

Area	Labor Force	Unemployed	Unemployment Rate, Mar. 2003- Feb. 2005 (5.7%) (Approval threshold 6.8%)
Delaware	6711534	341234	
Philadelphia	15013037	1125745	
Total	21724571	1466979	6.8%

Region 6:

Area	Labor Force	Unemployed	Unemployment Rate, Mar. 2003- Feb. 2005 (5.7%) (Approval threshold 6.8%)
Fayette	1568741	119779	
Greene	411639	27475	
Washington	2440852	142226	
Total	4421232	289480	6.5%

Other areas:

Area	Labor Force	Unemployed	Unemployment Rate, Dec. 2003-Nov 2005 (5.3%) (Approval threshold 6.4%)
Armstrong - LSA			
Allentown City in Lehigh County - LSA			
Erie City in Erie County - LSA			
			6/03-5/05 5.6% national average, 6.7% city average and approval threshold
Harrisburg	544773	36278	
Johnstown City in Cambria County - LSA			
McKeesport City in Allegheny County - LSA			
Reading City in Berks County - LSA			
York City in York County - LSA			

9. **Action and reason for approval or denial:** We are approving exemptions for residents of the areas included in Regions 1 and Five and the individual cities and counties listed in the table following the regional lists of areas. We are denying the requests for Regions 2, 3 and 4 because the average 24-month unemployment rate for those regions was below the required threshold of 20 percent above the national average necessary for a waiver.
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 as provided for at 7 CFR 273.24(f)(3)(iii).
11. **Conditions and reasons:** NA
12. **Information required for extension:** To receive an extension the State agency must provide verifiable data as outlined in 7 CFR 273.24(f) indicating that there are insufficient jobs in the affected areas.
13. **Expiration date:** For areas that qualify based on the data submitted with the State agency's request this waiver extension and modification are retroactive to September 1, 2006 (the State agency had requested approval retroactive to August 1), and will expire on January 31, 2007, the expiration date of the waiver under the original approval. Although the State agency had requested an extension of the approval date, because this is a modification of a previously approved waiver rather than an extension of that waiver, the original expiration date will remain in effect. Residents of those areas that did not qualify for an exemption under this request, but were included in the waiver as approved on May 5, 2006 through the January 31, 2007 expiration date of that waiver.
14. **Limitation, if any, on regional office approval of like requests:** This waiver is limited to the Pennsylvania State Agency.
15. **Quality control procedures:** There is no special quality control procedures needed in conjunction with this waiver.
16. **Date of national office action:**
17. **Date of State agency's request:** July 27, 2006

18. **Date of regional office transmittal of request to national office:** This request n
as originally submitted by the State agency was forwarded by the regional office
by email on August 7, 2006. The request as revised by the State agency was
forwarded to the national office on September 1, 2006.
19. **Date of regional office transmittal of response to State agency:**
20. **Actual implementation date:**