

March 28, 2008

2020019

**SUBJECT:** FSP – Pennsylvania Able-bodied Adults Without Dependents  
(ABAWD) Waiver of 7 CFR 273.24

**TO:** William Kluxen, Regional Director  
Food Stamp Program  
Mid-Atlantic Region

This is in response to the Pennsylvania State Agency’s request of January 18, 2008 to modify and extend its waiver which exempts certain individuals from the work requirements of 7 CFR 273.24 based on insufficient jobs. The State based its determination of insufficient jobs on U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics data.

Our response approving the State’s waiver request is attached. If you have any questions please contact Vicky Robinson at [vicky.robinson@fns.usda.gov](mailto:vicky.robinson@fns.usda.gov) or at 703-305-2476.

/S/

Harriet Kornegay  
Assistant Chief  
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cc: All Regions (except MARO)  
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FINAL:FNS:FSP:PDD:CPB:VROBINSON:03/25/08:jragan:03/27/08:305-2519  
DIR:I:CPB:WAIVERS:FY2007:2020019 PA ABAWD mod & ext

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(f)
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 to continue to exempt certain adult individuals from the work requirements of 7 CFR 273.24. The State agency grouped the majority of the requested counties into two sub-regions. In all, the State agency is requesting to renew 25 of the areas previously approved and is adding 25 new areas, for a total of 50 areas (44 counties plus six cities). Region's I and II have an aggregate unemployment rate (UER) of 20 percent above the national average of 4.8 percent, or 5.7 percent, for the 24-month period of March 2005 through February 2007 as follows:

**National Unemployment Rate (UER):**

<b>Labor Force</b>	<b>Unemployed</b>	<b>UER</b>
3,618,004,000	173,150,000	<b>4.8</b>

**Region I:**

<b>Area</b>	<b>Labor Force</b>	<b>Unemployed</b>	<b>UER</b>
Armstrong County	792,257	44,460	
Beaver County	2,151,458	110,455	
Bedford County	557,086	35,099	
Cambria County	1,627,067	92,984	
Cameron County	62,510	4,183	
Clearfield County	982,130	55,762	
Clinton County	455,428	26,628	
Fayette County	1,572,238	103,974	
Forest County	61,404	4,478	
Greene County	417,016	24,819	
Huntingdon County	532,397	29,695	
Jefferson County	545,321	28,035	
Lawrence County	1,053,370	59,155	
Mercer County	1,331,002	77,006	
Potter County	203,225	12,497	
Somerset County	942,672	54,287	
Washington County	2,466,539	127,602	
<b>Total for Region I</b>	<b>15,753,120</b>	<b>891,119</b>	<b>5.7</b>

**Region II:**

<b>Area</b>	<b>Labor Force</b>	<b>Unemployed</b>	<b>UER</b>
Blair County	1,557,055	74,811	
Bradford County	751,529	35,495	
Clarion County	493,083	24,839	
Crawford County	1,027,677	56,036	
Elk County	422,699	20,696	
Erie County	3,386,106	177,018	
Indiana County	1,092,461	57,254	
Lackawanna County	2,546,513	129,782	
Luzerne County	3,804,571	211,717	
Lycoming County	1,421,840	76,384	
McKean County	523,733	27,832	
Mifflin County	548,312	29,898	
Monroe County	1,903,351	100,215	
Northumberland County	1,134,130	61,818	
Philadelphia County	14,933,494	962,605	
Sullivan County	73,710	4,102	
Susquehanna County	514,727	24,157	
Tioga County	493,313	27,368	

**Region II (continued):**

Area	Labor Force	Unemployed	UER
Union County	430,143	23,057	
Venango County	642,056	34,271	
Warren County	507,122	25,479	
Westmoreland County	4,448,741	228,395	
Wyoming County	345,675	18,021	
<b>Total for Region II</b>	<b>43,002,041</b>	<b>2,431,250</b>	

The State agency is also requesting to waive the following areas based on having an average unemployment rate of at least 20 percent above the national average of 4.8 percent, or 5.7 percent, for the 24-month period of March 2005 through February 2007:

**Other areas:**

Area	Labor Force	Unemployed	UER
Carbon County	736,363	43,210	<b>5.9</b>
Columbia County	825,820	47,035	<b>5.7</b>
Pike County	626,657	36,405	<b>5.8</b>
Schuylkill County	1,711,274	97,377	<b>5.7</b>
Allentown City	1,225,036	78,918	<b>6.4</b>
Chester City	356,956	27,220	<b>7.6</b>
Harrisburg City	544,014	31,468	<b>5.8</b>
McKeesport City	217,352	14,132	<b>6.5</b>
Reading City	802,204	57,420	<b>7.2</b>
York City	457,348	31,024	<b>6.8</b>

9. **Action and reason for approval or denial:** We are approving the State agency's request in full. Able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWDs) who reside in the aforementioned areas will be exempt from work requirements due to insufficient jobs.
10. **Regulatory or legislative basis for action:** The waiver is approved pursuant to 7 CFR 273.24(f), which allows the Secretary to waive the applicability of the work requirement provision for any group of individuals in the State if the Secretary makes a determination that the area in which the individuals reside has insufficient jobs.
11. **Conditions and reasons:** None.
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:** The waiver is approved for one year, effective February 1, 2008 through January 31, 2009.
14. **Limitation, if any, on regional office approval of like requests:** This waiver is limited to the Pennsylvania State Agency.
16. **Quality control procedures:** N/A
17. **Date of national office action:** March 25, 2008
18. **Date of State agency's request:** January 18, 2008
19. **Date of regional office transmittal of request to national office:** January 23, 2008.
20. **Date of regional office transmittal of response to State agency:**
21. **Actual implementation date:**