

March 13, 2007

970084

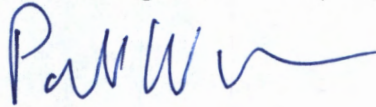
SUBJECT: FSP -- Tennessee- Request to Modify ABAWD Waiver 970084

TO: Peggy Fouts, Regional Director  
Food Stamp Program  
Southeast Regional Office

This is in response to the Tennessee Department of Human Service's request dated February 6, 2007, to revise their previously submitted and approved ABAWD waiver, number 970084. The original waiver exempted 76 counties.

The revised waiver negates the original request and response. The new waiver aggregates 91 counties, which when totaled, are 20 percent above the national unemployment average for the accounting period November 2004 through October 2006, therefore, exempting the counties from the work requirement of 7 CFR 273.24, because of insufficient jobs. The State also is requesting a waiver for the city of Knoxville, which also meets the above 24-month criterion. The State bases its determination of insufficient jobs on U.S. Department of Labor data.

Our response approving the State's request is attached. If you have any questions, please contact Dwight Ricker at (703) 305-2468.



Patrick Waldron  
Chief  
Certification Policy Branch  
Program Development Division

Attachment

cc: All Regions (except SERO)

FINAL:USDA :FNS:FSP:PDD:CPB:DRicker021407  
DIR:J : CPB/Waivers/2007 :970084 TN ABAWD MOD

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## WAIVER RESPONSE

1. **Waiver serial number:** 970084
2. **Type of request:** Modification
3. **Primary regulation citation:** 7 CFR 273.24
4. **Secondary regulation citation:**
5. **State:** Tennessee
6. **Region:** SERO
7. **Regulatory Requirements:** Under 7 CFR 273.24(b), an individual is 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, Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) may waive the applicability of the above provision 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 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:** Tennessee is seeking a waiver from Section 6(o) of The Food Stamp Act, based on having a 24 month unemployment rate that is 20 percent above the national average for 91 aggregated counties and Knoxville City. The counties are: Anderson, Bedford, Benton, Bledsoe, Blount, Bradley, Campbell, Cannon, Carroll, Carter, Cheatham, Chester, Claiborne, Clay, Cocke, Coffee, Crockett, Cumberland, Decatur, Dekalb, Dickson, Dyer, Fayette, Fentress, Franklin, Gibson, Giles, Grainger, Greene, Grundy, Hamblen, Hamilton, Hancock, Hardeman, Hardin, Hawkins, Haywood, Henderson, Henry, Hickman, Houston, Humphreys, Jackson, Jefferson, Johnson, Lake, Lauderdale, Lawrence, Lewis, Lincoln, Loudon, Macon, Madison, Marion, Marshall, Maury, McMinn, McNairy, Meigs, Monroe, Montgomery, Moore, Morgan, Obion, Overton, Perry, Pickett, Polk, Putnam, Rhea, Roane, Robertson, Scott, Sequatchie, Sevier, Shelby, Smith, Stewart, Sullivan, Sumner, Tipton, Trousdale, Unicoi, Union, Van Buren, Warren, Washington, Wayne, Weakley,

White, and Wilson. The unemployment rate for November 2004 through October 2006 for the 91 counties is 5.9 percent, and the threshold is 6.0 percent. The unemployment for the identical accounting period for Knoxville City is 6.0 percent, which equals the threshold.

9. **Action and reason for approval or denial:** 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.
10. **Regulatory or legislative basis for action:** This waiver is approved under the authority of 7 CFR 273.24(f), which allows FNS to waive the applicability of the work requirement provision for any group of individuals in the State if FNS makes a determination that the area in which the individuals reside has insufficient jobs.
11. **Conditions and reasons:** N/A
12. **Information required for extension:** To receive an extension the State agency must provide data indicating that there are insufficient jobs in the Workforce Investment Area.
13. **Expiration date:** This waiver extension is approved effective April 1, 2007, and will expire on March 31, 2008.
14. **Limitation on regional office approval of like requests:** This waiver is limited to the Tennessee Department of Human Services.
15. **Quality Control Procedures:** N/A
16. **Date of national office action:**
17. **Date of State Agency's request:** February 6, 2007
18. **Date of regional office transmittal of request to National Office:** February 20, 2007.
19. **Date of regional office transmittal of response to State agency:**
20. **Actual implementation date:**