



JAN 18 2008

United States
Department of
Agriculture

970084

Food and
Nutrition
Service

SUBJECT: FSP – Tennessee – Request to Waiver 7 CFR 273.24 – 2008 Extension

3101 Park
Center Drive

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

Alexandria, VA
22302-1500

This is in response to the Tennessee State Agency's letter to your office, dated December 18, 2007, requesting a modification and extension of its waiver of 7 CFR 273.24. Under the waiver, residents 91 counties in Tennessee would be exempt from the work requirements mandated under that regulation based on insufficient jobs, as indicated by data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS).

Our response approving the State agency's request is attached. If you have any questions, please contact Larry Tropp at larry.tropp@fns.usda.gov or at (703) 305-2504.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Harriet Kornegay".

Harriet Kornegay
Assistant Branch Chief
Certification Policy Branch
Program Development Division

Attachments

WAIVER RESPONSE

1. **Waiver Serial Number:** 970084
2. **Type of Request:** Extension and Modification
3. **Primary regulation citation:** 7 CFR 273.24
4. **Secondary regulation citation:** N/A
5. **State:** Tennessee
6. **Region:** Southeast
7. **Regulatory Requirement:** Under 7 CFR 273.24(b) individuals are 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, the FNS may waive the applicability of the above provision for any group of individuals in the State if the 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:** The Tennessee State agency is requesting an extension of its waiver, exempting individuals residing in 91 counties (listed below with supporting data) based on their inclusion in a multi-county region with an unemployment rate at least equal to 20 percent above the national average for the 24-month period ending February 28, 2007.

Area	Labor Force	Unemployed	Area	Labor Force	Unemployed
Anderson County	844983	40874	Lauderdale County	235505	19150
Bedford County	526695	27561	Lawrence County	409701	43388
Benton County	164738	12374	Lewis County	125082	10118
Bledsoe County	113823	7946	Lincoln County	404910	17706
Blount County	1446677	64174	Loudon County	531175	23779
Bradley County	1134083	57387	Macon County	259266	16312
Campbell County	401803	24111	Madison County	1134291	61711
Cannon County	157005	8061	Marion County	311718	18256
Carroll County	331715	22508	Marshall County	302416	18939
Carter County	699694	36821	Maury County	869441	48994
Cheatham County	497386	20539	McMinn County	588099	33991

Area	Labor Force	Unemployed	Area	Labor Force	Unemployed
Chester County	183742	10365	McNairy County	294377	17595
Claiborne County	316451	17379	Meigs County	115710	8105
Clay County	86561	9541	Monroe County	458854	26791
Cocke County	385965	28438	Montgomery County	1604044	78042
Coffee County	610897	33482	Moore County	74871	3492
Crockett County	156144	11201	Morgan County	199868	13793
Cumberland County	544410	34589	Obion County	373980	21292
Decatur County	132265	9282	Overton County	238492	15032
DeKalb County	240212	13385	Perry County	79634	5395
Dickson County	557335	26258	Pickett County	44656	3802
Dyer County	418178	24380	Polk County	176812	9910
Fayette County	391273	25679	Putnam County	827193	44091
Fentress County	176918	11993	Rhea County	320256	20743
Franklin County	481161	27074	Roane County	631831	34757
Gibson County	502507	39681	Robertson County	774030	35907
Giles County	322519	22847	Scott County	205497	14085
Grainger County	246303	14424	Sequatchie County	141623	7338
Greene County	781666	62850	Sevier County	1112696	62055
Grundy County	140357	10972	Shelby County	10502624	616675
Hamblen County	721078	41192	Smith County	222278	12722
Hamilton County	3842994	173785	Stewart County	144709	10880
Hancock County	58646	4484	Sullivan County	1745660	82917
Hardeman County	270756	20595	Sumner County	1851045	79956
Hardin County	276817	17984	Tipton County	646030	38118
Hawkins County	619754	36262	Trousdale County	90027	5538
Haywood County	226626	17677	Unicoi County	199172	12255
Henderson County	301642	20818	Union County	213122	10804
Henry County	338935	24508	Van Buren County	59351	4860
Hickman County	248083	14022	Warren County	436579	37263
Houston County	91492	7090	Washington County	1409176	65279
Humphreys County	214393	14551	Wayne County	157278	17468
Jackson County	124543	9296	Weakley County	375133	25134
Jefferson County	575994	32929	White County	258946	24219
Johnson County	170951	12265	Wilson County	1334499	59372
Lake County	63630	4658	Total for Sub-region	53,631,457	3,046,321
Unemployment Rate for the Region				5.7 Percent	

9. **Action and reason for approval or denial:** We are approving the State Agency's request to modify and extend its waiver to exempt individuals residing in the aforementioned counties from work requirements of 7 CFR 273.24. Approval is based on data provided by the State agency indicating an average unemployment rate of 5.7 percent for the 24-month period ending February 28, 2007, equal to the threshold of 20 percent above the national average for the period.
10. **Regulatory or legislative basis for action:** This waiver is approved under the authority in 7 CFR 273.24(f) which allows the FNS to waive the applicability of the work requirement provision in 7 CFR 273.24 for any group of individuals in the State if the 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 affected individuals.

11. **Conditions and reasons:** N/A
12. **Information required for extension:** To receive an extension the State agency must provide verifiable data indicating that there are insufficient jobs in the affected areas.
13. **Expiration date:** The waiver is effective April 1, 2008 and will expire March 31, 2009.
14. **Limitation, if any, on regional office approval of like requests:** This waiver is limited to the Tennessee State Agency.
15. **Quality control procedures:** N/A
16. **Date of national office action:**
17. **Date of State agency's request:** December 18, 2007
18. **Date of regional office transmittal of request to national office:** December 19, 2007 (via email)
19. **Date of regional office transmittal of response to State agency:**
20. **Actual implementation date:**