

MAY 11 2007

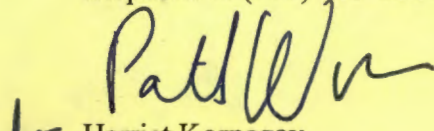
970057

SUBJECT: FSP -Texas - ABAWD Waiver Modification and Extension

TO: Judy Barron
Regional Director
Food Stamp Program
Southwest Regional Office

This is in response to your April 20, 2007, memorandum forwarding a request from the Texas Health and Human Services Commission to extend waiver 970057, which waives work requirements for Loving, Maverick, Presidio, Starr, and Zavala Counties. We are approving this request based upon data that indicates unemployment rates over 10 percent for these counties from February 1, 2006 to January 31, 2007.

Please find attached our detailed response. Please contact Melissa Daigle Katz by email or telephone at (703) 305-2501 if you have questions.



Harriet Kornegay
Assistant Branch Chief
Certification Policy Branch
Program Development Division

Attachment(s)

FINAL:FNS:FSP:PDD:CPB:MDaigleKatz:rh:703-305-2501:5/04/07
DIR:I:CPB:Waivers:FY2007: 970057 TX ABAWD Modification and Extension

151

Symbol	Surname	Date	Symbol	Surname	Date
	Daigle Katz	05-10-2007			
PD-100	AWW	5-10-07			

WAIVER RESPONSE

1. **Waiver Serial Number:** 970057
2. **Type of Request:** Extension and Modification
3. **Primary regulation citation:** 7 CFR 273.24
4. **Secondary regulation citation:** N/A
5. **State:** Texas
6. **Region:** Southwest
7. **Regulatory Requirement:** 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; did not participate in and comply with requirements of a program under Section 20 or a comparable program established by the State; or received benefits because they were exempt from these requirements.

7 CFR 273.24(f) also provides that, upon the request of a State Agency, the Secretary 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 State is requesting a 1-year waiver of work requirements for the counties listed in the table below, based upon unemployment rates exceeding 10 percent.

County	Average Unemployment Rate February 2006 - January 2007
Loving	12.0%
Maverick	13.1%
Presidio	11.1%
Starr	11.7%
Zavala	11.8%

9. **Action and reason for approval or denial:** We are approving the waiver for Loving, Maverick, Presidio, Starr, and Zavala Counties, as the data submitted by the State indicates unemployment rates above 10 percent in these counties.
10. **Regulatory or legislative basis for action:** This waiver is approved pursuant to 7 CFR 273.24(f)(3)(i), (ii), and (iii).
11. **Conditions and reasons:** None.
12. **Information required for extension:** To receive an extension the State agency must provide data or other information as described in 273.24(f)(2) and (f)(3). If Texas wishes to receive an extension based on unemployment rates, they must provide us with all supporting documentation, including spreadsheets in digital form.
13. **Expiration date:** This waiver is effective beginning October 1, 2007 and will expire on September 30, 2008.
14. **Limitation, if any, on regional office approval of like requests:** These waivers are limited to the Texas Health and Human Services Commission.
15. **Quality control procedures:** None.
16. **Date of national office action:**
17. **Date of State agency's request:** April 20, 2007.
18. **Date of regional office transmittal of request:** April 25, 2007.
19. **Date of regional office transmittal of response to State agency:**
20. **Actual implementation date:**