

April 25, 2007

SUBJECT: FNS – Virginia Request to Extend ABAWD Waiver 970283

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

This is in response to the Virginia State Agency's request of March 29, 2007, to modify and extend its waiver which exempts certain individuals from the work requirements of 7 CFR 273.24. The State bases its determination of insufficient jobs on U.S. Department of Labor data.

Our response approving the request for one year, effective May 1, 2007, is attached. Because the State failed to document a program related issue/need, we have not approved the request to extend the waiver through June 2008.

If you have any questions, please contact Dwight Ricker at (703) 305-2468.

/s/

Harriet Kornegay
Assistant Branch Chief
Certification Policy Branch
Program Development Division

Attachment

FINAL:USDA:FNS:FSP:PDD:CPB:DRicker :04/224/07:mcl
FILE: ABAWDS (VA)
DIR:I:CPB:WAIVER:970283 VA ABAWD mod & ext

WAIVER RESPONSE

1. **Waiver serial number:** 970283
2. **Type of request:** Modification and Extension
3. **Primary regulation citation:** 7 CFR 273.24
4. **Secondary regulation citation:** N/A
5. **State:** Virginia
6. **Region:** MARO
7. **Regulatory requirements:** The Food Stamp Program regulations at 7 CFR 273.24, provide that no individual will 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 of the Food Stamp Act or a comparable program established by the State.

The Food Stamp Program Regulations at 7 CFR 273.24(f) also provide 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:** Basing its determination of insufficient jobs on U.S. Department of Labor data, the Virginia State Agency is asking to extend its ABAWD waiver for 35 cities/counties based on having an unemployment rate of 20 percent above the national average of 4.9 percent, or 5.9 percent for the 24-month period of November 2004 to October 2006.
9. **Action and reason for approval or denial:** We are approving the State Agency's request to extend and modify waiver its waiver for the following 35 cities/counties, based on the area having an aggregate unemployment rate of at least 20 percent above the national average of 4.9 percent, or 5.9 percent for the 24-month period of November 2004 to October 2006:

Selected Localities	Nov 2004-Oct 2006 labor force	Nov 2004-Oct 2006 number of unemployed	Nov 2004-Oct 2006 unemployment rate
Part of District 1			
Lee County	223636	10592	4.74
Norton City	37476	2042	5.45
Scott County	237390	12002	5.06
Part of District 2			
Buchanan County	202618	11380	5.62
Dickenson County	136373	7885	5.78
Russell County	289175	17475	6.04
Part of District 3			
Bristol City	187437	9819	5.24
Carroll County	346473	18295	5.28
Galax City	75307	4329	5.75
Grayson County	181061	9469	5.23
Smyth County	378815	16892	4.46
Part of District 4			
Giles County	202178	8824	4.36
Pulaski County	441967	18997	4.30
Part of District 5			
Alleghany	180540	8485	4.70
Covington	69450	4315	6.21
Part of District 11			
Appomattox County	168341	6847	4.07
Part of District 12			
Danville City	502072	51087	10.18
Henry County	608226	36281	5.97
Martinsville City	141698	13091	9.24
Patrick County	209862	12277	5.85
Pittsylvania County	755717	46502	6.15
District 13			
Brunswick County	163703	8662	5.29
Halifax County	386572	23659	6.12
Mecklenburg County	319832	18320	5.73
Part of District 14			
Charlotte County	134683	9893	7.35
Lunenburg County	134437	6604	4.91
Prince Edward County	205260	9986	4.87
Part of District 19			
Emporia City	57933	3481	6.01
Greensville County	96858	5586	5.77
Hopewell City	250621	13397	5.35
Petersburg City	347294	24315	7.00
Sussex County	107796	6388	5.93
Charles City County	93116	3818	4.10
Part of District 23			
Franklin City	88448	4455	5.04
Williamsburg	113898	8104	7.12
Total	8076263	473554	5.9%

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:** N/A
12. **Information required for extension:** To receive an extension the State agency must provide data for the affected areas indicating that there continue to be insufficient jobs for individuals subject to 7 CFR 273.24.
13. **Expiration date:** This waiver modification is approved from May 1, 2007 through April 30, 2008.
14. **Limitation on regional office approval of like requests:** This waiver is limited to the Virginia State Agency.
15. **Quality control procedures:** N/A
16. **Date of national office action:**
17. **Date of State agency's request:** March 29, 2007
18. **Date of regional office transmittal of request to the national office:** April 6, 2007
19. **Actual implementation date:**