



United States Department of Agriculture
Food and Consumer Service

Southwest Region

Reply to
Attn of:

SWFS-202

AUG 10 1998

Subject:

FSP - Louisiana ABAWD Waiver Extension Request - 970025 and 970075

To:

Arthur T. Foley, Director
Program Development Division

We are forwarding a request from the Louisiana Department of Social Services to extend its current waivers 970025 and 970075. Both waivers are scheduled to expire on December 31, 1998. The State agency is requesting an early extension so that these waivers will coincide with Federal Fiscal Year 1999. We recommend the approval of this extension request. We also suggest that these waivers be consolidated into one as the justification for all of the areas requested by the State agency is based on Labor Surplus Area designation.

A copy of the Waiver Request Outline is attached. If you need any additional information, please call our Louisiana State Manager, Dianne Huey, at (214) 290-9883 or our Regional Policy Coordinator, Ronald Gwinn, at (214) 290-9880.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Albert M. McIlwain", is positioned above the typed name.

ALBERT M. McILWAIN
Acting Regional Director
Food Stamp Program

Attachment



State of Louisiana
Department of Social Services
OFFICE OF FAMILY SUPPORT
P.O. BOX 94065

M.J. "MIKE" FOSTER, JR.
GOVERNOR

755 THIRD STREET
PHONE - 504/342-3950 - FAX - 504/342-4252
BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA 70804 9065

MADLYN B. BAGNERIS
SECRETARY

August 4, 1998

Mr. Albert McIlwain, Acting Regional Director
Food Stamp Program
USDA, Food and Consumer Service
1100 Commerce St., Room 5-C-30
Dallas, Texas 75242-1005

RE: FOOD STAMP PROGRAM - Extension of Waiver #970025
Waiver of Work Requirements -Section 824 of HR 3734 (P.L. 104-193)

Dear Mr. McIlwain:

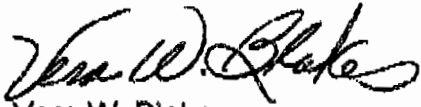
The Louisiana Department of Social Services requests an extension of Waiver #970025 regarding work requirements. Section 824 of HR 3734 (P.L. 104-193) provides that no individual shall be eligible to participate in the Food Stamp Program as a member of any household if, during the preceding 36-month period, the individual received food stamp benefits for not less than 3 months (consecutive or otherwise) and did not comply with work requirements. This waiver allows an exemption from this requirement to groups of individuals which reside in areas which have an unemployment rate of more than ten percent. Louisiana currently has 50 areas which are designated as labor surplus areas for Federal Fiscal Year 1998. Thirty-four of these areas are included in a separate waiver request (Waiver #970075).

The current waiver will expire on December 31, 1998. We request extension through September 30, 1999 so as to coincide with the federal fiscal year.

Details are contained in the attached standard waiver request format along with the most current supporting documentation of Department of Labor statistics.

Extension of this waiver would continue to ease the burden of individuals to comply with work requirements which are unreasonable, given the local economic environment. This waiver also provides for more efficient operation of the State Agency by concentrating effort and resources in regard to work requirements on those households most likely to benefit.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Vera W. Blakes". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Vera" being the most prominent.

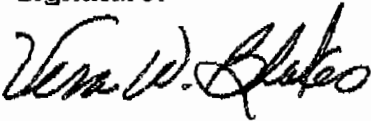
Vera W. Blakes
Assistant Secretary

cc: Madlyn Bagneris

WAIVER REQUEST

1. **Waiver serial number (if request is extension):** 970025
2. **Type of Request:** Extension
3. **Primary regulation citation:** Section 824 of HR 3734 (P.L. 104-193)
4. **Secondary regulation citation, if any:**
5. **State:** Louisiana
6. **Region:** Southwest
7. **Regulatory Requirements:** Section 824 of HR 3734 (P.L. 104-193) 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 of the Food Stamp Act or a comparable State or local program; or received benefits as they were exempt from these regulations.
8. **Proposed alternative procedures:** We propose to exempt from this requirement, individuals who reside in areas designated by United States Department of Labor as labor surplus areas. Louisiana has 50 areas (34 of which are included in waiver #970075) which qualify (See Attachment). We are not requesting waivers for three of the 50 areas. Extension of this waiver would continue to exempt residents of the following parishes from the work requirement provisions of Section 824 of P.L. Law 104-193: Bienville, Caldwell, Catahoula, Concordia, East Carroll, Franklin, Grant, Madison, Morehouse, Red River, Richland, St. James and West Carroll. Each year, we propose to evaluate new statistical information and request exemption of labor surplus areas based on statistical data available from the Department of Labor.
9. **Justification for request:** This waiver is requested under the provisions of Section 824(a) of P.L. Law 104-193 which gives the Secretary authority to grant a waiver of 7 U.S.C. 2015(o)(4). It would allow individuals who reside in labor surplus areas the opportunity to participate in the Food Stamp Program without being required to meet unrealistic program work requirements.
10. **Anticipated impact on households and State agency operations:** The households which would be affected are those residing in project areas designated as labor surplus areas. Department of Labor statistics indicate that households in 13 parishes in Louisiana would be exempt from these requirements under this waiver. This waiver would ease the burden of individuals to comply with work requirements which are unreasonable given the local economic environment. Implementation of this waiver would also provide for more efficient operation of the Food Stamp Program by allowing the State Agency to concentrate effort and resources in regard to work

requirements on those households most likely to benefit.

11. **Caseload information and quality control error rate for affected households:** In June 1998, the latest month for which we have actual figures, 187,115 households received food stamps. There are no applicable quality control error rates to report for this waiver.
12. **Anticipated implementation date and time period for which waiver is needed:** We are requesting the waiver be extended thru September 30, 1999. As proposed in number 8 above, a yearly evaluation will be conducted based on the most current annual statistics from the U.S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration.
13. **Proposed quality control review procedures:** N/A
14. **Signature:**

Vera W. Blakes
Assistant Secretary
15. **Date:** August 4, 1998



State of Louisiana
Department of Social Services
OFFICE OF FAMILY SUPPORT

M.J. "MIKE" FOSTER, JR.
GOVERNOR

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MADLYN B. BAGNERIS
SECRETARY

August 4, 1998

Mr. Albert McIlwain
Acting Regional Director
Food Stamp Program
USDA, Food and Nutrition Service
1100 Commerce St., Room 5-C-30
Dallas, Texas 75242-1005

RE: FOOD STAMP PROGRAM - Extension of Waiver #970075
Waiver of Work Requirements-Section 824 of HR 3734 (P.L. 104-193)

Dear Mr. McIlwain:

The Louisiana Department of Social Services requests an extension of Waiver #970075 regarding work requirements. Section 824 of HR 3734, (Public Law 104-193) which provides that no individual shall be eligible to participate in the Food Stamp Program as a member of any household if, during a 36-month period, the individual received food stamp benefits for not less than 3 months (consecutive or otherwise) and did not comply with work requirements. This waiver would allow an exemption from this requirement for groups of individuals who reside in areas designated as labor surplus areas by the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL), Employment and Training Administration. Louisiana has 50 areas designated as labor surplus areas for Federal Fiscal Year 1998. Thirteen of these areas are included in a separate waiver request (Waiver #970025).

The current waiver will expire on December 31, 1998. We request extension of the waiver through September 30, 1999 so as to coincide with the federal fiscal year.

Details are contained in the attached standard waiver request format along with the most current supporting documentation of Department of Labor statistics.

Extension of this waiver would continue to ease the burden of individuals to comply with work requirements which are unreasonable, given the local economic environment. This waiver also provides for more efficient operation of the State Agency by concentrating effort and resources in regard to work requirements on those households most likely to benefit.

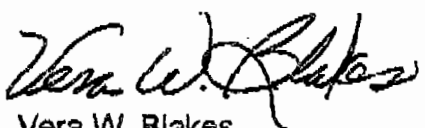
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Vera W. Blakes".

Vera W. Blakes
Assistant Secretary

cc: Madlyn B. Bagneris

Department of Labor as labor surplus areas the opportunity to participate in the Food Stamp Program without being required to meet unrealistic program work requirements.

10. **Anticipated impact on households and State agency operations:** The households which would be affected are those residing in project areas designated as labor surplus areas. Department of Labor statistics indicate that households in 34 areas in Louisiana would be exempt from these requirements under this waiver. This waiver would ease the burden of individuals to comply with work requirements which are unreasonable given the local economic environment. Implementation of this waiver would also provide for more efficient operation of the Food Stamp Program by allowing the State Agency to concentrate effort and resources in regard to work requirements on those households most likely to benefit.
11. **Caseload information and quality control error rate for affected households:** In June 1998, the latest month for which we have actual figures, 187,115 households received food stamps. There are no applicable quality control error rates to report for this waiver request.
12. **Anticipated implementation date and time period for which waiver is needed:** We are requesting the waiver be extended thru September 30, 1999. As proposed in number 8 above, a yearly evaluation will be conducted based on the most current annual statistics from the U.S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration.
13. **Proposed quality control review procedures:** N/A
14. **Signature:**

Vera W. Blakes
Assistant Secretary
15. **Date:** August 4, 1998

bcc: Vera Blakes
Lionel Anthony
Don Moore
James Sanders
Jackie Droddy
Nan Willis
Tara Nelson
Carol Kimball

WAIVER REQUEST

1. **Waiver serial number (if request is extension):** 970075
2. **Type of request:** Extension
3. **Primary regulation citation:** Section 824 of HR 3734 (P.L. 104-193)
4. **Secondary regulation citation, if any:**
5. **State:** Louisiana
6. **Region:** Southwest
7. **Regulatory Requirements:** Section 824 of HR 3734 (P.L. 104-193) provides that no individual shall be eligible to participate in the Food Stamp Program as a member of any household if, during a 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 as they were exempt from these regulations.
8. **Proposed alternative procedures:** We propose to continue to exempt from this requirement, groups of individuals who reside in areas designated by the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL), Employment and Training Administration, as labor surplus areas. Louisiana has 50 areas designated as labor surplus areas according to Department of Labor statistics (See attachment). Thirteen of these areas were included in a prior waiver request. We are not requesting waivers for three of the 50 areas. Approval of this waiver would exempt residents of the following parishes from the work requirement provisions of Section 824 of P.L. Law 104-193: Acadia, Allen, Ascension, Assumption, Avoyelles, Beauregard, Bossier (except Bossier City), Claiborne, DeSoto, East Feliciana, Evangeline, Iberville, Jefferson Davis, Livingston, Natchitoches, Pointe Coupee, Sabine, St. Bernard, St. Helena, St. John, St. Martin, Tensas, Vernon, Washington, Webster, West Baton Rouge, West Feliciana, Winn and the cities of Shreveport, Lake Charles, New Iberia, New Orleans, Monroe, and Alexandria. Each year, we propose to evaluate new statistical information and request exemption of labor surplus areas based on statistical information available from DOL.
9. **Justification for request:** This waiver is requested under the provisions of Section 824 (a) of P.L. Law 104-193 which gives the Secretary authority to grant a waiver of 7 U.S.C. 2015 (c)(4). It would allow individuals in areas designated by the