



FOB JAMES, JR.
Governor

State of Alabama
Department of Human Resources

S. Gordon Persons Building
50 Ripley Street
P.O. Box 304000
Montgomery, Alabama 36130-4000
(334) 242-1310



Tony Petelos
Commissioner

December 4, 1998

Crayton Lankford, Acting Regional Director
Food Stamp Program
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Food and Nutrition Service
61 Forsyth Street, Suite 8T36
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

Dear Mr. Lankford:

Attached please find our waiver extension request to exempt seven Alabama counties from the ABAWD work requirements due to their high unemployment rates. These seven counties continued to experience unemployment rates in excess of 10% when averaged for FY1998.

In addition, we are requesting a three month extension of our current waiver for five counties included in our 1998 waiver for 10% unemployment rates. Extension of this waiver through March 1999, will allow us time to transition these counties from this waiver to the state's other ABAWD waiver for counties where insufficient jobs exist (Waiver #970225).

If you have any questions concerning this waiver request, please address them to Mary Lois Monroe, Family Assistance Division, at (334) 242-1747.

Sincerely,

Terrie Reid, Interim Director
Family Assistance Division

TR:MLM

Enclosure

WAIVER REQUEST

1. **Waiver serial number:** 970043

2. **Type of request:** Extension

3. **Primary regulation citation:** Section 6(o)(2) of the Food Stamp Act of 1977, as amended by Section 824 of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996.

4. **Secondary regulation citation:** None

5. **State:** Alabama

6. **Region:** Southeast

7. **Regulatory requirements:** The Food Stamp Act, as amended, provides for a waiver to the work requirements of the above section, for groups of individuals residing in areas that have an unemployment rate of over 10%. The State of Alabama is requesting an extension of our waiver for food stamp recipients residing in the following seven counties: Butler, Choctaw, Greene, Lowndes, Monroe, Washington and Wilcox. In addition, we are requesting a three-month extension of our existing waiver for the following counties: Bullock; Conecuh, Dallas, Perry and Sumter. These counties have experienced a slight drop in their unemployment rates but these counties are designated labor surplus areas for FY 1999 and it is anticipated that these counties will be approved for a waiver for the coming year based on that criteria. Approval of this three-month extension will allow time for us to transition these counties from this waiver to Waiver # 970225.

8. **Justification for request:** The attachment provides the monthly unemployment rates for the requested counties for FY 1998. All seven counties had unemployment rates in excess of 10% when averaged for the entire fiscal year. The information is based on the unemployment rates as determined and reported by the Alabama Department of Industrial Relations for each month.

9. **Anticipated impact on households and State agency operations:** With the approval of this waiver extension, food stamp recipients residing in the above counties will not be subject to the specified work requirement provisions of the Food Stamp Act, as amended.

10. **Caseload information:** Programming to identify potential ABAWDs within the caseload has not been completed as of this date so the projected numbers of recipients for which this waiver would apply is not known at this time.

12/18/98 11:53:58 USDA/FCS SERO (#1) ->
07-DEC-98 MON 02:02 PM FAMILY ASSISTANCE

783 385 2486 Judy Seymour
FAX NO. 1 334 353 1363

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11. Anticipated implementation date and time period for which waiver is needed:
If approved, this waiver will continue to exempt food stamp recipients from the ABAWD work requirements in these seven counties. This waiver extension is requested for one year. Additionally, we are requesting a continuance of our current waiver for three months for five counties listed above, to expire on March 31, 1998.

12. Proposed quality control review procedures: Households for which the waiver is approved will not be subject to the quality control review procedures related to the specified work requirements.

**13. Signature and title
of requesting official:**


Terrie Reid, Interim Director
Family Assistance Division
Alabama Department of Human Resources

14. Date of request: December 4, 1998.

ABAWD WAIVER REQUEST
10% UNEMPLOYMENT RATES*

COUNTY	Oct-97	Nov-97	Dec-97	Jan-98	Feb-98	Mar-98	Apr-98	May-98	Jun-98	Jul-98	Aug-98	Sep-98	AVG
Butler	8.4	9.6	8.8	9.9	10.7	9.8	8.7	9.2	12.0	11.5	10.8	11.3	10.1
Choctaw	16.3	15.0	11.5	12.6	11.6	11.1	10.3	9.9	12.0	8.7	8.9	9.7	11.5
Greene	16.9	14.4	13.1	16.5	16.2	13.3	11.0	10.6	12.2	11.8	12.0	11.9	13.3
Lowndes	13.7	11.8	10.1	11.8	11.4	10.1	9.3	9.1	12.8	10.1	10.0	9.9	10.6
Monroe	13.9	13.0	10.6	11.1	11.2	10.2	10.3	11.1	12.7	9.7	9.7	9.8	11.1
Washington	14.7	13.3	11.8	12.9	12.3	11.2	11.0	10.7	13.9	11.7	11.4	12.7	12.3
Wilcox	14.8	14.8	12.5	13.2	13.4	12.3	11.8	10.7	14.7	11.5	12.3	13.1	13.0
Counties with 3-month Extension Requested													
Bullock	12.9	11.9	9.4	7.5	7.1	6.5	5.7	6.1	10.2	11.5	12.5	11.7	9.4
Conecuh	9.8	9.2	8.2	8.5	8.6	7.7	9.0	8.2	9.4	7.3	7.5	8.3	8.5
Dallas	10.9	9.5	8.2	9.2	9.2	8.0	7.3	7.5	11.0	9.3	9.6	10.1	9.2
Perry	10.2	8.4	7.1	6.5	8.1	6.5	8.8	7.3	11.0	8.8	8.0	7.7	8.4
Sumter	11.7	10.9	8.6	8.4	8.0	7.3	6.5	6.8	10.6	8.9	9.4	9.0	8.8

*Source: Alabama Department of Industrial Relations