



**United States
Department of
Agriculture**

Food and Consumer
Service

Northeast Region

10 Causeway Street, Room 501
Boston, MA 02222



Date:

Reply to Attention of:

NEFS-100

Subject:

ABAWD Waiver Extension request, Connecticut (CT)

To:

Judy Seymour, Chief
Certification Policy Branch

Attached is a November 16, 1998, request from the CT Department of Social Services to exempt individuals from Section 6(o) of the Food Stamp Act, as amended by Section 824 of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Act of 1996.

The State agency requests an extension of its current waiver #97304, due to expire on December 31, 1998. The State has added the town of East Haven which has been classified by the Department of Labor as a Labor Surplus Area beginning October 1, 1998. In addition, the State has requested to continue to exempt the town of Plymouth because it was listed as a Labor Surplus Area in two of the past four years.

If you need more information about this waiver request, please contact Susan Mahan at (617) 565-6382.

Mary Ann Ferris, Chief
State Program Improvement
Food Stamp program
Northeast Region

Attachment



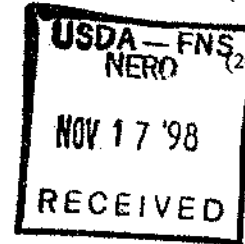


STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

JOYCE A. THOMAS
COMMISSIONER

TELEPHONE
(203) 424-5008

November 16, 1998



FAX
(203) 424-5129

Frances E. Zorn
Northeast Region Administrator
USDA, Food and Consumer Service
10 Causeway Street, Room 501
Boston, MA 02222

Dear Ms. Zorn:

The State of Connecticut hereby requests a waiver of the Food Stamp Program's work requirement in Section 824 of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996, for able-bodied adults without dependents, for a period of one year. This waiver request is a modification and continuation of our current waivers, scheduled to expire on December 31, 1998.

The Department of Labor has classified the town of East Haven as an additional Labor Surplus Area, effective October 1, 1998, and we have added it to our ABAWD waiver request. Although the town of Plymouth is not listed as a Labor Surplus Area this year, we also request that you continue the waiver from last year, since Plymouth has been listed as a Labor Surplus Area in two of the past four years (please see attached documentation). The towns are listed below:

Ansonia	Killingly	Norwich	Voluntown
Bridgeport	Meriden	Plainfield	Waterbury
Derby	Middletown	Plymouth	Winchester
East Hartford	New Britain	Putnam	Windham
East Haven	New Haven	Sprague	
Hartford	New London	Sterling	

Please contact William Ruffleth at 860.424.5381 if you need more information.
Thank you for your attention to this request.

Sincerely,

Joyce A. Thomas
Commissioner

JAT:WR

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Labor Surplus Areas

October 1998	October 1997	October 1996	October 1995	October 1994
(21 towns)	(21 towns)	(15 towns)	(11 towns)	(25 towns)
Ansonia	Ansonia	Ansonia		Ansonia
Bridgeport	Bridgeport	Bridgeport	Bridgeport	Bridgeport
				Bristol
				Canterbury
Derby	Derby			Derby
East Hartford	East Hartford	East Hartford	East Hartford	
East Haven				East Haven
Hartford	Hartford	Hartford	Hartford	Hartford
Killingly	Killingly	Killingly	Killingly	Killingly
Meriden	Meriden	Meriden		Meriden
Middletown	Middletown			
				Naugatuck
New Britain	New Britain	New Britain	New Britain	New Britain
New Haven	New Haven			
New London	New London	New London		
Norwich	Norwich			
Plainfield	Plainfield	Plainfield	Plainfield	Plainfield
				Plainville
	Plymouth			Plymouth
				Prospect
Putnam	Putnam	Putnam		Putnam
Sprague	Sprague			Sprague
Sterling	Sterling	Sterling	Sterling	Sterling
			Thomaston	Thomaston
				Thompson
				Torrington
Voluntown	Voluntown	Voluntown	Voluntown	
Waterbury	Waterbury	Waterbury	Waterbury	Waterbury
				Watertown
Winchester	Winchester	Winchester	Winchester	Winchester
Windham	Windham	Windham		
				Wolcott

Last Modified: October 28, 1998



Labor Market Information



Connecticut Department of Labor Home Page

Labor Surplus Areas

Labor Surplus Areas are areas whose average unemployment rates were at least 20 percent above the average unemployment rate for all states (including the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico) during the previous two calendar years.

The most recent list, released by the U.S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration, became effective October 1, 1998 and remains in effect through September 30, 1999.

The qualifying rate for labor surplus area classification was 6.4 percent which is 20 percent above the 5.3 percent national average unemployment rate during the period of January 1996 through December 1997.

Employers located in designated labor surplus areas are eligible for preference in bidding on federal procurement contracts. The purpose of providing such preference is to direct federal funds toward businesses and jobless individuals in areas with the most severe economic need.

The classification procedures also provide for the designation of labor surplus areas under "exceptional circumstances" criteria. These procedures permit the regular classification criteria to be waived when an area experiences a significant increase in unemployment which is not temporary or seasonal, and which was not adequately reflected in the data for the two-year reference period. These include major plant closings or cutbacks, contract cancellations, or such catastrophic events as fires, floods, and other major disasters. Under these circumstances, the State Employment Security Agency (SESA) must submit a petition requesting such classification to the Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration.

Here is the list of Labor Surplus Areas for this year and four prior years.

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Labor Market Information



Connecticut Department of Labor Home Page