

USDA

United States
Department of
AgricultureFood and Consumer
Service

Mid-Atlantic Region

Mercer Corporate Park
300 Corporate Boulevard
Robbinsville, N.J. 08691-1598

Date:

FEB 9 1999

Reply to Attention of:

Subject:

Waiver Request of Section 824 PRWORA
District of Columbia

To:

Arthur T. Foley
Director
Program Development Division

Attached is a waiver request dated February 3, 1999 received on February 8, 1999 from the District of Columbia requesting a waiver of the requirements of Section 824 of the PRWORA on the basis of insufficient jobs and the District's unemployment rate.

The District's former waiver expires on February 28, 1999. Please do not hesitate to contact this office if you have any questions.

Joe Weingart
JOSEPH WEINGART
Regional Director
Food Stamp Program

Attachments

Post-It™ brand fax transmittal memo 7671		# of pages > 7
To: MARGARET BARKO	From: ED O'NEILL	
Co. PDS	Co. MARO-FSP-SPS	
Dept.	Phone # (609) 259-5111	
Fax # (703) 305-2486	Fax # (609) 259-5062	



GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

FEB 3 1999

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR
TELEPHONE 202-279-6002
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P.O. Box 54047
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20032-0247

Mr. Joseph Weingart, Director
Food Stamp Program
USDA, Food and Consumer Service
Mercer Corporate Park
300 Corporate Boulevard
Robbinsville, N.J. 08691-1598

Dear Mr. Weingart:

The District of Columbia is requesting a waiver of Section 824 of the Food Stamp Amendments contained in the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996.

Our reasons for requesting this waiver are two-fold:

- The District has been classified as a "labor surplus area" by the Employment and Training Administration (ETA) of the U.S. Department of Labor. (See Enclosure A, "Area Trends in Employment and Unemployment, U.S. Department of Labor). This designation supports our waiver request, as it indicates the District is an area with an insufficient number of jobs. Between 1990 and 1997 the District lost approximately 71,000 jobs. It is unrealistic to believe, given our current status and these employment projections, that we would have sufficient employment opportunities for District residents subject to the requirements of Section 824.
- While data gathered by the D.C. Department of Employment Services shows that the citywide unemployment rate for November 1998 averaged 8.3 percent, higher unemployment rates in seven of the city's eight wards are masked in the averaging by the

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substantially lower unemployment rate in affluent Ward 3. In November 1998, the unemployment rates across the city were:

Ward I	7.6%	Ward V	10.7%
Ward II	6.8%	Ward VI	9.5%
Ward III	2.8%	Ward VII	9.6%
Ward IV	7.9%	Ward VIII	15.6%

Less than one-half of one percent of Food Stamp recipients live in Ward III. Therefore, its inclusion in estimates of unemployment rates affecting Food Stamp recipients masks the true extent of unemployment in the remainder of the city. Averaging the unemployment rates in the other seven wards for July yields a rate of 9.3 percent. Recipients who reside in these areas will experience extreme hardship in obtaining employment in the three month period required in section 824. It will also be difficult for the District to provide alternative work programs in these areas sufficient to meet the demand. It is estimated that nearly 10,000 Food Stamp recipients will be affected in these seven wards.

It is for the above two reasons that we are requesting a one year waiver of the section 824 provisions. During this period, the District will explore an expansion of the community service infra-structure, which could enable the District to offer other work opportunities when employment is limited.

I appreciate your prompt attention to this request. Please contact A. Sue Brown, Administrator of the Income Maintenance Administration on (202) 698-3901, if you require further clarification or information. Thank you, as always, for your cooperation and assistance.

Sincerely,



Jearline F. Williams
Director

Enclosure