



Jeb Bush
Governor

Kathleen A. Kearney
Secretary

WAIVER REQUEST

1. WAIVER SERIAL NUMBER: 970133
2. TYPE OF REQUEST: Extension (Renewal)
3. PRIMARY REGULATION CITATION: Public Law 104-193
Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Act
4. SECONDARY REGULATION CITATION: Section 824
Work Requirement for Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents
5. STATE: Florida
6. REGION: Southeast
7. REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS: Under this section of the Act, individuals are only eligible for food stamps three months out of thirty-six unless the individual is exempt. An individual is exempt from this requirement if the individual is: (1) working at least 20 hours per week (averaged monthly), (2) participating in a work experience or workfare program for 20 hours or more per week, (3) under 18 or over 50 years of age, (4) medically certified as physically or mentally unfit for employment, (5) responsible for a dependent child, (6) pregnant, or (7) otherwise exempt from work requirements.
8. PROPOSED ALTERNATIVE PROCEDURES: Florida requests a waiver from the Work Requirement for Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents regulation for counties and areas with an unemployment rate over 10%. Florida's Department of Labor and Employment Security, Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS), which are produced in cooperation with the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, were used to determine unemployment rates. Unemployment rates for the most recent six months (June through November) for 1998 were used to identify the counties and areas with an unemployment rate over 10% (see Attachment A). The recent six month period represents the most accurate unemployment rate in the state because it reflects the loss of business and agricultural jobs resulting from hurricanes, tropical storms and agricultural fires which adversely affected the state

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economy in 1998. There were eight separate Presidential Disasters open in the state in 1998. The counties and areas which qualify for this waiver are:

COUNTY	UNEMPLOYMENT RATE	NUMBER OF ABAWDS Nov. 1998
Glades	10.5%	0*(1)
Gulf	12.2%	34
Hardee	14.6%	53
Hendry	16.4%	45
Indian River	10.1%	57
St. Lucie	13.2%	222
		TOTAL: 411*(2)

AREAS*(3)	RATE
Ft. Pierce City	21.3%
Port St. Lucie	10.3%
Riviera Beach City	11.0%

*(1) Glades County food stamp activities are handled in Hendry County and are included in the Hendry County totals.

*(2) All of the counties included in this waiver extension request are also designated as labor surplus areas and are included in the extension request for waiver 970134.

*(3) All of the cities included in this waiver extension request are located in counties which are designated as labor surplus areas and are included in the extension request for waiver 970134.

9. JUSTIFICATION FOR REQUEST: As stated in number 8 above, these counties and areas have an unemployment rate over 10%. Due to the high unemployment rate, the counties and areas are unable to provide a sufficient number of job opportunities. Usually the individuals have little work history, and employment prospects for these individuals are greatly diminished.

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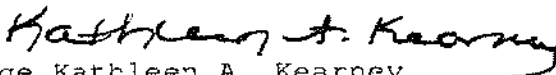
10. ANTICIPATED IMPACT ON HOUSEHOLDS AND STATE AGENCY: The exempt able-bodied adults without dependents would continue to be eligible for food stamp benefits, thus allowing them an extended period of time to utilize the Food Stamp Employment and Training Program and the employment services of the Department of Labor and Employment Security, Jobs and Benefits Offices.

11. CASELOAD INFORMATION: This waiver would affect 7 of the 67 counties in Florida. This waiver extension would exempt 411 able-bodied adults without dependents.

12. TIME PERIOD: Florida is requesting this waiver be approved for the period March 1, 1999 through February 29, 2000. Prior to March 2000, this waiver will be re-evaluated and re-submitted. Additional counties/areas may be added to this request if those counties/areas experience a three consecutive month average unemployment rate over 10%.

13. QUALITY CONTROL REVIEW PROCEDURES: Quality Control procedures will not be affected because the counties/areas will be exempt from the Work Requirement for Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents regulation during quality control reviews.

14. SIGNATURE:


Judge Kathleen A. Kearney
Secretary

15. DATE: 1/27/99