



CPB

FEB 17 1999

**United States
Department of
Agriculture**

Food and Consumer
Service

Northeast Region

10 Causeway Street, Room 501
Boston, MA 02222



Date:

NEFS-100

Reply to Attention of:

ABAWD Waiver Extension Request, Maine
(ME)

Subject:

Art Foley, Director
Program Development Division

To:

Attached are two requests dated January 21 and January 27, 1999, from the ME Department of Human 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 two current waivers #970140 and 970141, due to expire March 31, 1999, with the following modifications.

The State agency requests an exemption for a labor market area in Hancock County, Ellsworth/Bar Harbor, which has an unemployment rate that exceeds the national average by more than twenty per cent. In addition, the unemployment rate in Waldo County no longer meets the criteria for the waiver.

We recommend approval of these waivers. 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



The Food and Consumer Service, formerly the Food and Nutrition Service



Angus S. King, Jr.
Governor



Kevin W. Concannon
Commissioner

STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333

January 21, 1999

Robert L. Canavan
Food Stamp Director
Food & Nutrition Services
NERO
10 Causeway Street
Boston, MA 02222

Dear Mr. Canavan:

Please find the enclosed request of extension for waiver #970140. This waiver allowed residents of designated areas in Maine to be exempt from time limited accessibility to the food stamp program as described at Section 824 of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act.

The unemployment rates for these areas exceed the national average by more than 20 per cent.

We are waiting for additional information before we request an extension of waiver # 970141 which exempted residents of the Penobscot Nation.

Thank you for any assistance you may provide. If you have any questions, please contact Rick Morrow at (207) 287-5093.

Sincerely,

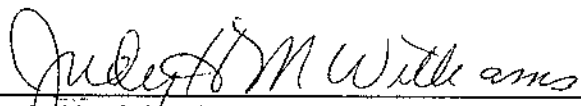
A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Judy H.M. Williams".

Judy H.M. Williams, Director
Bureau of Family Independence

WAIVER REQUEST OUTLINE

1. **Waiver serial number (if request is extension):** 970140
2. **Type of request:** Extension
3. **Primary regulation citation, if any** Section 6(o) of the Food Stamp Act, as amended by Section 824 of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act (PRWORA) of 1996, P.L. 104-193.
4. **Secondary regulation citation, if any:**
5. **State:** Maine
6. **Region:** NERO
7. **Regulatory requirements:** Section 6(o) of the Food Stamp Act, as amended by Section 824 of the Personal Responsibility and Work Reconciliation Act (PRWORA), 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 of 20 hours or more per week; or did not participate in and comply with requirements of a program under section 20 or a comparable program established by the State.

Section 6(o) of the Food Stamp Act, as amended by Section 824 of the PRWORA, also provides that, upon request of a State agency, the Secretary may waive the applicability of the above provision for any group of individuals in the State if the Secretary makes a determination that the area in which the individuals reside has an unemployment rate of over 10 percent, or does not have a sufficient number of jobs to provide employment for the individuals.
8. **Proposed alternative procedures:** The State of Maine is requesting to waive the requirements of Section 824 of the PRWORA on the basis of insufficient jobs for the residents of the following counties: Aroostook, Franklin, Oxford, Piscataquis, Somerset, and Washington. The original waiver included the county of Waldo. Waldo County's unemployment rate no longer meets the criteria for the waiver. The original waiver also included the county of Hancock. It was not included in the last extension as it is no longer considered a designated LSA. We would now like you to consider an LMA in Hancock County, Ellsworth/Bar Harbor, as an area to be exempt. Its unemployment rate meets the criteria for the waiver.
9. **Justification for request:** The national average unemployment rate for the period of November, 1996 through October, 1998 was 4.8. The average unemployment rate for the areas covered in this waiver extension exceeds 1.20 percent of the national average.

10. **Anticipated impact on households and State agency operations:** This waiver will provide consistency for households and State agency operations in areas where unemployment remains higher than the national average.
11. **Caseload information, including percent, characteristics, and quality control error rate for affected portion:** The caseload for these areas represent 30 percent of the caseload for the state. There are no quality control procedures involved.
12. **Anticipated implementation date and time period for which waiver is needed:** This waiver has an expiration date of March 31, 1999. We request a one-year extension.
13. **Proposed quality control review procedures:** There are no special quality control procedures needed in conjunction with this waiver.
14. **Signature and title of requesting official:**
- 
Judy H. M. Williams, Director, Bureau of Family Independence
Department of Human Services
15. **Date of request:** January 21, 1999



Angus S. King, Jr.
Governor

Kevin W. Concannon
Commissioner

STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333

January 27, 1999

Robert L. Canavan
Food Stamp Director
Food & Nutrition Service
NERO
10 Causeway Street
Boston, MA 02222

Dear Mr. Canavan:

Please find the enclosed request of extension for waiver #970141. This waiver allowed residents of Penobscot Nation to be exempt from time limited accessibility to the food stamp program as described at Section 824 of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act.

The unemployment rate for this area exceeds the national average by more than 20 per cent.

Thank you for any assistance you may provide. If you have any questions, please contact Rick Morrow at (207) 287-5093.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Judy H.M. Williams".

Judy H.M. Williams, Director
Bureau of Family Independence

WAIVER REQUEST OUTLINE

1. **Waiver serial number (if request is extension):** 970141
2. **Type of request:** Extension
3. **Primary regulation citation, if any** Section 6(o) of the Food Stamp Act, as amended by Section 824 of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act (PRWORA) of 1996, P.L. 104-193.
4. **Secondary regulation citation, if any:**
5. **State:** Maine
6. **Region:** NERO
7. **Regulatory requirements:** Section 6(o) of the Food Stamp Act, as amended by Section 824 of the Personal Responsibility and Work Reconciliation Act (PRWORA), 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 of 20 hours or more per week; or did not participate in and comply with requirements of a program under section 20 or a comparable program established by the State.

Section 6(o) of the Food Stamp Act, as amended by Section 824 of the PRWORA, also provides that, upon request of a State agency, the Secretary may waive the applicability of the above provision for any group of individuals in the State if the Secretary makes a determination that the area in which the individuals reside has an unemployment rate of over 10 percent, or does not have a sufficient number of jobs to provide employment for the individuals.
8. **Proposed alternative procedures:** The State of Maine is requesting to waive the requirements of Section 824 of the PRWORA on the basis of insufficient jobs for the residents of Penobscot Nation. Its unemployment rate meets the criteria for the waiver. We have attached the information from Penobscot Nation which was prepared by the Bureau of Indian Affairs.
9. **Justification for request:** The national average unemployment rate for the period of November, 1996 through October, 1998 was 4.8. The average unemployment rate for the areas covered in this waiver extension exceeds 1.20 percent of the national average.
10. **Anticipated impact on households and State agency operations:** This waiver will provide consistency for households and State agency operations in areas where unemployment remains higher than the national average.

11. **Caseload information, including percent, characteristics, and quality control error rate for affected portion:** The caseload for this specific area represents a very small percent of the caseload for the state. There are no quality control procedures involved.

12. **Anticipated implementation date and time period for which waiver is needed:** This waiver has an expiration date of March 31, 1999. We request a one-year extension.

13. **Proposed quality control review procedures:** There are no special quality control procedures needed in conjunction with this waiver.

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Judy H. M. Williams", written over a horizontal line.

Judy H. M. Williams, Director, Bureau of Family Independence
Department of Human Services

15. **Date of request:** January 27, 1999

National average unemployment rate for November, 1996 through October, 1998 is 4.8.

$$4.8 \times 1.20 = 5.76$$

Average unemployment rates for the same time period for the following areas are:

Aroostook	7.93
Franklin	6.83
Oxford	5.83
Piscataquis	6.82
Somerset	7.65
Washington	9.68
Ellsworth/Bar Harbor LMA	6.07

Copies of unemployment rate statistics for these areas for the appropriate period, as provided by the Maine Department of Labor, are attached.

CHILDREN'S HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT

FAX TRANSMITTAL

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labor force report

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Comparison to Form 5-2119 Rev.									
	Line A ?	Line B	Line D	Line E	Line G	Line H	Line I ?		
			Years of Age		Unable to Work		Total		
		BIA					Potential		
			Under				Labor		
		Total	16-64	Over 64	Student	Other	Force		
									[3+4-5-6]
		(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	
Pendbscot Tribe	ME	1,206	290	825	91	265	25	626	

Potential Labor Force				Line J	Line N	Line K	Line O
				Earn \$9,043 or More			
Total							
Total Labor Force				Labor Force			
				Total	Seeking Work	Unemployed	% of age
Total	Not Employed	% Not Employed	Labor Force	Total	Seeking Work	Unemployed	% of age
Employed	Employed	[9/7]	[12+13]	Employed	Work	[13/11]	15-64
(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(16)
73	553	88%	97	73	24	25%	7%
					58		2,105