

DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES



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CHILD & FAMILY SERVICES DIVISION
PO BOX 8005
HELENA, MONTANA 59604-8005

December 29, 1998

U.S. Department of Agriculture
Food and Consumer Services
3101 Park Center Drive
Alexandria, VA 22302

Dear Sirs,

Enclosed is Montana's request for an extension and modification of waiver #970090 which allows Montana to exempt certain able bodied adults from provisions of Section 824 of PRWORA. This request is based on areas having an insufficient number of jobs. The requested counties have been identified by the Montana Department of Labor and Industry as labor surplus areas.

The waiver request also includes counties that qualify under waiver #970089 based on areas with unemployment rates higher than 10 percent. These dual qualifying counties are indicated on the waiver with an asterisk by the county name.

We have attached documentation from the Montana Department of Labor and Industry which supports this request.

The original waiver will expire February 28, 1999. Your prompt attention in this matter is appreciated.

If you have questions or need more information, please contact Carol Carpenter of my staff at (406)444-9291.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Hank Hudson".

Hank Hudson, Administrator
Child and Family Services Division

cc: Carol W. Carpenter, Food Stamp Program Officer.
Allan C. Nickels, Regional Director, USDA Food Stamp Program, Mountain Plains
Region, 1244 Speer Blvd., Denver, CO 80204-3581.

State Agency submitting the request for waiver #970090 extension/modification:

Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services

Contact Name: Carol Carpenter, Food Stamp Program Specialist
Address: Department of Public Health and Human Services
Child and Family Services Division
P.O. Box 8005
Helena, MT 59604-8005

Phone number: (406)444-9291

Areas covered by the request:

Anaconda/Deer Lodge County

*Big Horn County

Blaine County

Flathead County

*Glacier County

Lake County

*Lincoln County

Mineral County

Musselshell County

Phillips County

Roosevelt County

Rosebud County

*Sanders County

Category under which waiver is being requested:

Waiver request due to lack of sufficient jobs

Duration of waiver:

One year

Basis for the request:

The State of Montana is requesting a waiver of the time limit for receipt of Food Stamp benefits by unemployed able bodied adults without dependents. This waiver request is based on the lack of sufficient jobs in these areas. Each of these thirteen counties has been identified by the Montana Department of Labor and Industry as being a labor surplus area. To qualify as a labor surplus area each county had an average unemployment rate of 6.4% or greater for the previous two calendar years (January 1996 through December 1997).

Included in the waiver request are counties that qualify under waiver 970089 based on areas with unemployment rates higher than 10 percent. These dual qualifying counties are indicated by an asterisk.

Included with this request are the 1996 and 1997 Annual Average Labor Force by County and the Labor Surplus Areas reports prepared by the Montana Department of Labor and Industry, Research and Analysis Bureau. The Labor Surplus Areas report is in effect for the current federal fiscal year, October 1, 1998 through September 30, 1999.

Please note two counties, Golden Valley and Powell, were covered by last year's waiver but no longer qualify as labor surplus areas. Therefore, they have been excluded from this extension/modification request.