



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Food and
Nutrition
Service

Mountain
Plains
Region

1244 Speer Boulevard
Suite 903
Denver, CO 80204-3585

Reply to

APR 08 1999

Attn. of: MPFS-300:FS 10-1-1

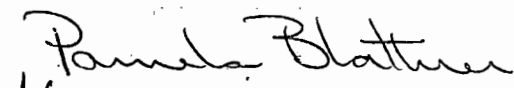
Subject: FSP - Request to Extend Waiver No. 970152 - Nebraska

To: Arthur T. Foley
Director
Program Development Division
Food Stamp Program
Food and Nutrition Service, USDA
Alexandria, Virginia 22302-1594

Attached is a request from the State of Nebraska to extend Waiver No. 970152. Under this waiver, individuals residing on the Santee Sioux, Omaha, and Winnebago Indian Reservations are exempt from the work requirement provisions of Section 6(o) of the Food Stamp Act, as amended by Section 824 of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act. The waiver expires April 30, 1999.

Based on the State's documentation that these areas continue to be designated Labor Surplus Areas, we recommend approval be extended through April 30, 2000.

If you have any questions or need additional information, Kathie Herrman may be contacted at (303) 844-0347.


for ALLAN C. NICKELS
Regional Director
Food Stamp Program

Attachment



March 12, 1999

Allan C. Nickels, Director
USDA Food and Consumer Service
Mountain Plains Region
1244 Speer Blvd., Suite 903
Denver, CO. 80204-3585

Dear Mr. Nickels:

Section 6(o) of the Food Stamp Act, as amended by Section 824 of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Act, provides that states may request a waiver of this provision for areas of the state that do not have sufficient jobs to provide employment for individuals.

Nebraska is requesting an extension of Waiver 970152 which exempts three areas that meet this criteria: The Santee, Omaha and Winnebago Reservations.

Please feel free to contact this office if you need further information or if you have any questions.

Respectfully,



Ron Ross, Director
Department of Health and Human Services

LA:BB9071G

Enclosure

WAIVER REQUEST

1. **Waiver Serial Number:** 970152
2. **Type of request:** Extension
3. **Primary Regulation Citation:** Section 6 (o) of the Food Stamp Act
4. **Secondary Regulation Citation:** None
5. **State:** Nebraska
6. **Region:** Mountain Plains

7. **Regulatory Requirement:** Section 6(o) of the Food Stamp Act 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 (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 for 20 hours or more per week; did not participate in and comply with requirements of a program under section 20 or a comparable program established by the state; or received benefits because they were exempt from these requirements.

Section 6(o) of the Food Stamp Act 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 that State if the Secretary makes a determination that the area in which the individuals reside has an unemployment rate of over 10 per cent, or does not have a sufficient number of jobs to provide employment for the individuals.

8. **Description of Proposed Alternative Procedures:** Nebraska is proposing to extend its waiver (970152) to exempt from this requirement individuals who reside in areas which do not have a sufficient number of jobs to provide employment for the individuals. There are three areas in Nebraska that continue to meet this criteria: The Santee Sioux, Omaha and Winnebago Indian Reservations.

9. **Justification for Request:** Nebraska's Food Stamp Program serves 99,294 persons monthly. Our estimates show that approximately 920 persons are impacted by Section 6(o). The number of persons residing in the geographic area in our waiver request is approximately 50 persons.

Thurston County has been designated as a Labor Surplus Area by the Department of Labor. All of Thurston County is reservation land. The Winnebago Reservation is located in the northern part of the county, and the Omaha Reservation is located in the southern part. We believe that the Labor Surplus designation adequately documents that there continues to be insufficient jobs to provide employment for individuals residing on the Winnebago/Omaha Reservations.

The Santee Reservation is located in the north central portion of Knox County. The employment to population ration on the Santee Reservation continues to be extremely low compared to the national average which in January, 1998 was at a record high of 67.3% (per the Nebraska Department of Labor - Labor Market Information Section).

We have contacted various sources again this year (the BIA, the Santee Reservation, the Department of Labor, and the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities) to determine if a more recent analysis is available, however, to the best of our knowledge, the employment to population ratios have not been updated for the Santee Reservation. Employment has remained low and conditions on the reservations have changed little in the past year. An analysis provided by your office documented that the Santee employment to population ratio was 24% in 1996, 22% in 1995 and 22% in 1993. We believe that the labor analysis used to approve our initial waiver request continues to accurately reflect that there are insufficient jobs to provide employment for individuals residing on the reservations.

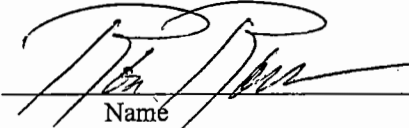
10. **Anticipated Impact on Household and State Agency Operations:** Please see Part 9.

11. **Caseload Information Including Percent, Characteristics, and Quality Control Error Rate for the Affected Portion:** Please see Part 9.

12. **Anticipated Implementation Date and Period for Which Waiver is Needed:** April 1, 1999 through March 31, 2001.

13. **Proposed Quality Control Procedures:** Not applicable.

14. **Signature and Title of Requesting Official:**


Name

Director, Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services

15. **Date of request:** March 10, 1999

NE IR Census Share Ratios

Santee

Knox County	CLF	EMP	UMP	UR
		0.063384	0.367925	
		4600	170	
	354.1137	291.5664	62.54725	
	0.17663			