

TO: Judy Seymour COMPANY: FSP/PDD

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## SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

Elizabeth G. Patterson, J.D., State Director, P.O. Box 1520, Columbia, S.C. 29202-1520

**FEB 25 1999**

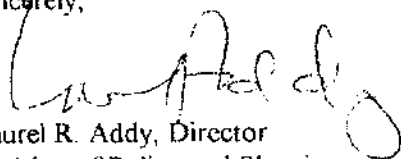
Mr. Virgil Conrad, Regional Administrator  
Food Stamp Program  
Southeast Region  
USDA, Food and Nutrition Service  
61 Forsyth Street, S.W., Suite 8T36  
Atlanta, GA 30303

Dear Mr. Conrad:

We are enclosing South Carolina's request for an extension of our waivers of 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.

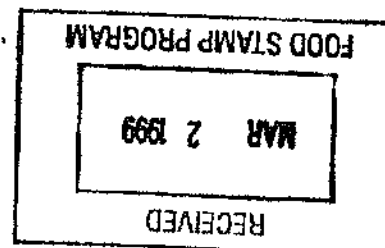
If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Sandy Allen of my staff at (803) 898-9452.

Sincerely,

  
Laurel R. Addy, Director  
Division of Policy and Planning  
Office of Family Independence

LRA/at

Enclosure



**WAIVER REQUEST**

1. **Waiver serial number:** 970044 and 970112
2. **Type of request:** Extension
3. **Primary regulation citation:** 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:** None
5. **State:** South Carolina
6. **Region:** Southeast Region
7. **Regulatory requirements:** Section 6(o) of the Food Stamp Act, as amended by Section 824 of 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 during which the individual did not:
  - a. Work 20 hours or more per week, averaged monthly;
  - b. Participate in and comply with the requirements of a work program for 20 hours or more per week; or
  - c. 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 the 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:** South Carolina is requesting a waiver to exempt individuals who reside in 2 counties from the work requirement provision of Section 6(o) of the Food Stamp Act, as amended by Section 824 of the PRWORA, as these counties had an annual average unemployment rate over 10 percent for the period of October 1997 through September 1998. South Carolina is also requesting in this waiver to exempt individuals who live in 20 additional counties and two cities from the work requirement provision of Section 6(o) of the Food Stamp Act, as amended by Section 824 of the PRWORA as these areas have been identified as Labor Surplus Areas (LSA) by the Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration (ETA). This brings our total exempted population to 22 counties and two cities.

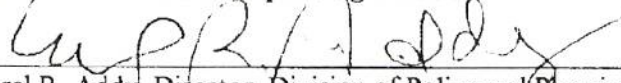
9. **Justification for request:** Statistics secured from Employment Security Commission, a cooperating agency with the Bureau of Labor Statistics, show the following areas with average unemployment rate of 10% or more for Fiscal Year 1998:

| <u>County</u> | <u>Average Unemployment Rate for FY 98</u> |
|---------------|--------------------------------------------|
| Marlboro      | 10.9%                                      |
| Williamsburg  | 10.6%                                      |

Statistics from the U.S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration show the following areas as labor surplus areas: Abbeville, Aiken, Allendale, Bamberg, Barnwell, Calhoun, Chester, Chesterfield, Clarendon, Darlington, Dillon, Fairfield, Florence (includes city and balance of Florence County), Georgetown, Hampton, Lee, McCormick, Marion, Orangeburg, and Union counties, and the cities of Anderson and North Charleston.

10. **Anticipated impact on households and State agency operations:** The extension of this waiver will allow individuals who reside in areas with unemployment rates of 10 percent or more the opportunity to participate in the Food Stamp Program without being required to meet unrealistic work requirements. In addition, South Carolina will be able to exempt areas in which there are not enough jobs for groups of individuals who may be affected by the new time limits in the Food Stamp Program.
11. **Caseload information, including percent, characteristics, and quality control error rate for affected portion:** An estimated number of 3,721 individuals will be exempted due to unemployment rates of 10 percent or more or residence in labor surplus areas.
12. **Anticipated implementation date and time period for which waiver is needed:** These waivers are requested for a one-year time period to begin March 1, 1999.
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:**

  
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Laurel R. Addy, Director, Division of Policy and Planning

15. **Date of request:**

2/24/99