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To: JUDY SEYMOUR, CHIEF
Company: PDD/CPB
Fax #: 8,703,305,2486

From: Charlotte Duncan
Company: USDA, Food & Consumer Service
Address: 61 Forsyth Street, Suite 8T-36
Atlanta, GA 30303
Fax #: (404)527-4509
Voice #: (404)562-7047

Message:

Judy,

Attached is Tennessee's request for an extension and modification of waivers #970084 and #970085. These waivers exempt ABAWDs from the time limits specified in PRQORA Section 824. Our analysis follows:

#970084-The State agency is requesting to extend the waiver for four of the seven counties included in the current waiver because the current unemployment rate is over 10%. We note that all of these counties would also qualify for a waiver based on the LSA average unemployment rate is over 10% in these counties.

#970085 - The State agency is adding 10 counties to the number already exempted as LSAs. Four of the 54 LSAs might also qualify under the over 10% unemployment criterion. We recommend approval.



STATE OF TENNESSEE
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
400 DEADERICK STREET
CITIZENS PLAZA BUILDING
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 372248-7200

December 17, 1998

Crayton J. Lankford, Regional Director
Southeast Region, Food and Nutrition Services
United States Department of Agriculture
61 Forsyth Street, Suite 8T36
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

Dear Mr. Lankford:

Attached you will find a request for a modification and extension of waivers 970084 and 970085. These waivers are requesting 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, be waived. These waivers exempt individuals residing in certain areas due to Labor Surplus and/or unemployment rate being over 10 percent from the ABAWD work requirement.

Your expeditious processing of this request is appreciated.

If you or your staff have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (615) 313-5652.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Ricki O. Rippey".

Ricki O. Rippey, Director
Food Stamp Policy

ROR:SR

Attachments

RECEIVED STATE OF TENNESSEE

DEC 17 1998

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

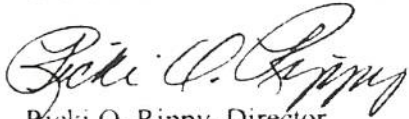
WAIVER REQUEST

1. WAIVER SERIAL NUMBER: 970084
2. TYPE OF REQUEST: Extension and Modification
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: N/A
5. STATE: Tennessee
6. REGION: Southeast
7. REGULATORY REQUIREMENT: Section 6(o) of the Food Stamp Act, as amended, by Section 824 of the PRWORA, 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, average 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, as amended by Section 824 of this 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. DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ALTERNATIVE PROCEDURES: Under the current waiver Tennessee is approved until January 31, 1999, to exempt individuals residing in 7 counties from the requirements of Section 6(o) of the PRWORA. Exemption is based on these areas having an unemployment rate above 10 percent. The 7 counties are: Clay, Hardeman, Haywood, Houston, Lewis, Stewart, and Wayne. Tennessee is requesting to extend the waiver for 4 of these counties. The waiver extension request is for the counties of Clay, Hardeman, Lewis, and Wayne. Based upon information provided by the Tennessee Department of Employment Security, these counties have an unemployment rate above 10 percent.

9. JUSTIFICATION FOR REQUEST: As stated in number 8 above, the four counties have an unemployment rate above 10 percent. This is verified by the Tennessee Department of Employment Security figures for the period from November, 1997 through October, 1998 (See the attached chart). Due to the high unemployment rate, the above counties are unable to provide sufficient number of job opportunities on an area basis. Employment prospects for these individuals are greatly diminished and usually the individuals have little work history.
10. ANTICIPATED IMPACT ON HOUSEHOLDS AND STATE AGENCY: The household with able-bodied adults without dependents will benefit through continued eligibility if otherwise eligible. These able-bodied individuals will be able to continue to receive benefits longer than the three months and a longer period of time to obtain either employment or training as the Case Manager will have longer to assist them in achieving this goal. The individuals will not have what, in many instances, is their only source of assistance terminated.
11. CASELOAD INFORMATION: This waiver will affect 4 counties out of 95. In each county the percentage of the Food Stamp population will be minimal. Quality Control will not be affected, as QC will exempt these counties from the able-bodied requirement.
12. TIME PERIOD: Tennessee is requesting the waiver of the able-bodied requirement for 4 counties based upon the unemployment rate being over 10 percent. We are requesting the waiver to be for one year. At that time, all counties will be re-evaluated to determine their eligibility based upon the unemployment rate.
13. SIGNATURE AND TITLE OF REQUESTING OFFICIAL:



Ricki O. Rippy, Director
Food Stamp Policy
Tennessee Department of Human Services

WAIVER REQUEST

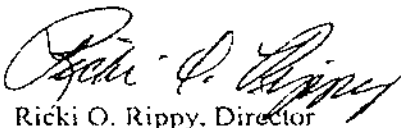
1. WAIVER SERIAL NUMBER: 970085
2. TYPE OF REQUEST: Extension and Modification
3. PRIMARY REGULATION CITATION: Section 6(o) of the Food Stamp Act, as amended by Section 824 of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act (PRWORA) of 1996, P. L. 104-193.
4. SECONDARY REGULATION CITATION: N/A
5. STATE: Tennessee
6. REGION: Southeast
7. REGULATORY REQUIREMENT: Section 6(o) of the Food Stamp Act, as amended, by Section 824 of the PRWORA, 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, average 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, as amended by Section 824 of the PROWRA, 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. DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ALTERNATIVE PROCEDURES: Under the current waiver, Tennessee is approved until January 31, 1999 to exempt individuals in 44 counties from the work requirement provisions of Section 6(o) of the PRWORA based on their designation as Labor Surplus Areas (LSAs) by the Employment and Training Administration (ETA) of the Department of Labor. The counties are: Benton, Campbell, Carroll, Clay, Cocke, Crockett, Cumberland, DeKalb, Decatur, Fentress, Gibson, Greene, Grundy, Hardeman, Hardin, Haywood, Henderson, Houston, Humphreys, Johnson, Lake, Lauderdale, Lawrence, Lewis, Lincoln, Macon, McMinn, McNairy, Meigs, Monroe, Morgan, Obion, Overton,

Pickett, Polk, Rhea, Scott, Sevier, Stewart, Trousdale, Unicoi, Van Buren, Wayne, and White. Tennessee is requesting an extension of the waiver for these counties and to add 10 additional counties to the waiver. The additional counties are: Cannon, Carter (less Johnson City), Dyer, Franklin, Henry, Jackson, Marion, Roane (less Oak Ridge City), Sequatchie, and Warren. This will make a total of 54 counties being exempt from the able-bodied requirement due to being Labor Surplus Areas. Four of the above counties (Clay, Hardeman, Lewis, and Wayne) are being requested to be waived to the county's unemployment rate being over 10 percent.

9. JUSTIFICATION FOR REQUEST: As stated in number 8 above, the Department of Labor has designated the 54 counties as Labor Surplus Areas. Due to being Labor Surplus Areas, the above counties are unable to provide a sufficient number of job opportunities on an area basis. Employment prospects for these individuals are greatly diminished and usually the individuals have little or no work history.
10. ANTICIPATED IMPACT ON HOUSEHOLDS AND STATE AGENCY: The household with able-bodied adults without dependents will benefit through continued eligibility if otherwise eligible. These able-bodied individuals will be able to continue to receive benefits longer than the three months and a longer period of time to obtain either employment or training as the Case Manager will have longer to assist them in achieving this goal. These individuals will not have what in many instances is their only source of assistance terminated.
11. CASELOAD INFORMATION: This waiver includes a total of fifty-four counties out of ninety-five. Four of the counties also have over a ten- percent unemployment rate and are covered under waiver 970084. Quality Control would not be impacted, as QC would exempt the counties from the able-bodied requirement.
12. TIME PERIOD: Tennessee is requesting the waiver of the able-bodied requirement based upon the Labor Surplus for the fifty-four counties. We are requesting the waiver to be for one year. At that time, all counties will be re-evaluated to determine their eligibility for this waiver.
13. SIGNATURE AND TITLE OF REQUESTING OFFICIAL:



Ricki O. Rippey, Director
Food Stamp Policy
Tennessee Department of Human Services