



United States Department of Agriculture
Food and Consumer Service

Southwest Region

Reply to
Attn of:

SWFS-202

AUG 10 1998

Subject:

FSP - Texas ABAWD Waiver Extension Request - 970057

To:

Arthur T. Foley, Director
Program Development Division

We are forwarding a request from the Texas Department of Human Services to extend its current waiver 970057 which is scheduled to expire on October 31, 1998. The State agency is requesting an extension so that the waiver will coincide with Federal Fiscal Year 1999. We recommend the approval of this extension request.

A copy of the Waiver Request Outline is attached. If you need any additional information, please call our Texas State Desk Manager, Rosa Coronado, at (214) 290-9869 or our Regional Policy Coordinator, Ronald Gwinn, at (214) 290-9880.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Albert M. McIlwain", is positioned above the typed name.

ALBERT M. McILWAIN
Acting Regional Director
Food Stamp Program

Attachment

Texas
Department
Human^{of} Services

COMMISSIONER
Eric M. Bost

July 31, 1998

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Mr. Donald Arnette, Regional Director
Food Stamp Program
USDA, Food and Consumer Service
1100 Commerce St., Room 5-C-30
Dallas, Texas 75242-1005

Dear Mr. Arnette:

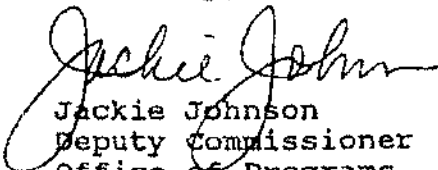
RE: FOOD STAMP PROGRAM - Request for Extension of Waiver(#970057)

The Texas Department of Human Services requests an extension of the existing waiver 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), for the following 19 Texas counties: Brooks, Cameron, Dimmit, Duval, El Paso, Hidalgo, Jasper, Kinney, Loving, Marion, Matagorda, Maverick, Newton, Presidio, Starr, Uvalde, Val Verde, Willacy, and Zavala.

The current waiver will expire on October 31, 1998. These counties qualify as high unemployment areas under criteria specified in Section 6(o) of the Food Stamp Act as amended by Section 824 of the PRWORA, which allows the Secretary to approve state requests for exemption from work requirements for individuals residing in areas with unemployment rates exceeding 10 percent. We request that this extension be for a one-year period beginning October 1, 1998 so as to coincide with the federal fiscal year.

Details are contained in the attached standard-format waiver request.

Sincerely,


Jackie Johnson
Deputy Commissioner
Office of Programs

JJ:rje

Attachment

Fax Transmittal Memo

of Pages 4

To: <u>Mr. Donald Arnette</u>	From: <u>Jackie Johnson</u>
Co.: <u>USDA</u>	Co.: <u>USDA</u>
Dept.: <u>Food and Consumer Service</u>	Phone # <u>214/761-1005</u>
Fax # <u>214/761-1005</u>	Fax # <u>214/761-1005</u>

RCFX14

John H. Winters Human Services Center • 701 West 51st Street
Central Office Mailing Address P.O. Box 149030 • Austin, Texas 78714-9030
Telephone (512) 438-3011 • Call your local DHS office for assistance.

WAIVER REQUEST

1. Waiver serial number (if request is extension): 970057
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: N/A
5. State: Texas
6. Region: SWRO
7. Regulatory requirements: 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), 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 for 20 hours or more per week; or did not participate in and comply with the 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: Texas proposes to exempt from this requirement individuals who reside in counties which have an unemployment rate in excess of 10 percent. Documents provided by the Texas Workforce Commission indicate that the 19 counties listed on page 1 had unemployment rates exceeding 10 percent for the most recent 3-month or 12-month period. Each year the State plans to revise the list of waiver counties with an annual effective date of October 1. Approval to request a waiver for additional counties may be requested by the State if circumstances warrant during the year.

9. **Justification for request:** This waiver is requested under provisions of Section 6(o) of the Food Stamp Act as amended by Section 824 of the PRWORA. Approval of this waiver would allow individuals who reside in areas where unemployment rates are over 10 percent the opportunity to participate in the food stamp program without being required to meet unrealistic program work requirements.

10. **Anticipated impact on households and State agency operations:** Approval of this waiver would mitigate the adverse effects experienced by households in economically depressed areas by allowing them to continue receiving basic nutritional sustenance through the Food Stamp Program. In such areas, these households would otherwise be faced with losing such basic support due to circumstances beyond their control since complying with work requirements in such local economic environments may not be a reasonable expectation.

Approval of the waiver would also provide for more efficient operation of the Food Stamp Program by allowing the State to focus its efforts and resources in regard to work requirements on those households most likely to benefit.

11. **Caseload information, including percent, characteristics, and quality control error rate for affected portion:**

* In June, 1998, a total of 1,596,323 individuals (586,889 households) received food stamps statewide. The 7472 Food Stamp recipients in the 19 counties who would be exempted by this waiver comprise about .5 percent of the State's total recipients. The 6917 households which would be exempted comprise 1.2 percent of the State's Food Stamp households. Attachment A provides caseload data on the affected population for these counties.

* There are no applicable quality control error rates to report for this waiver request.

12. **Anticipated implementation date and time period for which waiver is needed:** The waiver is requested for a one-year period commencing October 1, 1998.

13. **Proposed quality control review procedures:** No special procedures will be necessitated by this waiver.

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

Jackie Johnson
Deputy Commissioner
Office of Programs

15. **Date of request:** July 31, 1998

Food Stamp Hardship Counties in Texas

Total Number of Food Stamp Recipients by County July 1998		
County	Households	Recipients

Brooks	102	110
Cameron	894	966
Dimmit	83	90
Duval	93	100
El Paso	2,670	2,885
Hidalgo	1,650	1,783
Jasper	135	148
Kinney	6	6
Loving	0	0
Marion	82	89
Matagorda	94	102
Maverick	164	177
Newton	100	108
Presidio	24	28
Starr	350	378
Uvalde	84	91
Val Verde	140	151
Willacy	170	184
Zavala	75	81
Total	6917	7472

Total Number of Counties = 19

Sources

- ABAWDs include Legal Permanent Residents and Work Registration Code Y (previously excluded). Includes one or more recipients in the household with Work Registration Codes 2, 3, 4, R (Mandatory), X, Y and Z (individual exemptions).
- May 1998 and after: 630 denials excluded.

Source: June 1998 Cutoff TQ* TQPR TQTR
 Prepared by Program Budget and Statistics
 Office of Programs Administration and Management Services
 Texas Department of Human Services

16 July 1998

**Texas
Workforce**
COMMISSION

Mike Sheridan
Executive Director

Commissioner Representing Employers
Diane D. Rath
Commissioner Representing the Public
T.P. O'Mahoney
Commissioner Representing Labor

May 21, 1998

Mr. David Cook
Texas Department of Human Services
Administrative Management
P.O. Box 149030
Austin, Texas 78714-9030

OPTIONAL FORM 99 (7-90)

FAX TRANSMITTAL

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To HAYES BROWN	From ROSA CORONADO
Dept./Agency FNS - FSP	Phone # 214-240-4869
Fax # 723-305-2486	Fax # 214-767-8670
KEN 7640-01, 317-7368	5098-101 GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

Dear Mr. Cook:

Enclosed you will find, per your request, an updated list of counties in Texas that have an unemployment rate greater than ten percent. This list includes the most current information available, April 1998.

We will be pleased to provide you with additional updates as needed.

Sincerely,

Mark Hughes

Mark Hughes, Director
Labor Market Information

TO: Texas Department of Human Services

From: Texas Workforce Commission

Subject: Counties with unemployment rates greater than 10%. The most recent month available is April 1998.

Date: 5-21-98

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12-MONTH AVERAGE (MAY97-APR98) UNEMPLOYMENT RATE: COUNTIES > 10%

OBS	County	Unemployment Rate
1	BROOKS COUNTY	10.7
2	CAMERON COUNTY	12.5
3	DIMMIT COUNTY	16.1
4	EL PASO COUNTY	10.6
5	HIDALGO COUNTY	17.7
6	JASPER COUNTY	11.8
7	MARION COUNTY	10.9
8	MATAGORDA COUNTY	13.1
9	MAVERICK COUNTY	27.2
10	NEWTON COUNTY	12.2
11	PRESIDIO COUNTY	31.7
12	STARR COUNTY	28.0
13	UNVALDE COUNTY	11.7
14	VAL VERDE COUNTY	10.1
15	WILLACY COUNTY	21.0
16	ZAVALA COUNTY	23.7

LISTED IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER

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12-MONTH (MAY97-APR98) AVERAGE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE: COUNTIES > 10%

OBS	County	Unemployment Rate
1	PRESIDIO COUNTY	31.7
2	STARR COUNTY	28.0
3	MAVERICK COUNTY	27.2
4	ZAVALA COUNTY	23.7
5	WILLACY COUNTY	21.0
6	HIDALGO COUNTY	17.7
7	DIAMIT COUNTY	16.1
8	WATAGORDA COUNTY	13.1
9	CAMERON COUNTY	12.5
10	NEWTON COUNTY	12.2
11	JASPER COUNTY	11.8
12	UVALDE COUNTY	11.7
13	WARREN COUNTY	10.9
14	BROOKS COUNTY	10.7
15	EL PASO COUNTY	10.6
16	VAL VERDE COUNTY	10.1

LISTED IN DESCENDING ORDER OF UR

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3-MONTH (FEB98-APR98) AVERAGE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE: COUNTIES > 10%

OBS	County	Unemployment	
		Rate	
1	CAMERON COUNTY	12.0	
2	DIMMIT COUNTY	15.1	
3	GRUVAL COUNTY	10.2	
*	HIDALGO COUNTY	17.2	
4	JASPER COUNTY	10.1	
5	KINNEY COUNTY	14.1	
*	LOVING COUNTY	13.8	
*	WATAGORDA COUNTY	11.9	
6	MAVERICK COUNTY	31.7	
7	NEWTON COUNTY	12.5	
8	PRESIDIO COUNTY	33.4	
9	STARR COUNTY	30.1	
10	UVALDE COUNTY	10.2	
11	WILLACY COUNTY	20.7	
12	ZAVALA COUNTY	23.1	

* not on list for 12 month average unemployment rate

LISTED IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER