



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Food and
Consumer
Service

Mountain
Plains
Region

1244 Speer Boulevard
Suite 903
Denver, CO 80204-3585

Reply to
Attn. of:

MPFS-300:FS 10-1-1

DEC 16 1998

Subject: FSP - Request to Extend Waiver No. 970138 - Utah

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 Utah to extend Waiver No. 970138. Under this waiver, the following counties are exempt from the provisions of Section 6 of the Food Stamp Act, as amended by Section 824 of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act: Duchesne, Emery, Kane, San Juan, Garfield, Uintah, and Grand.

Justification for extension is based on the U.S. Department of Labor's designated Labor Surplus Areas. We recommend approval of this request, retroactive to December 1, 1998.

If there are any questions concerning this request, Kathie Herrman may be contacted at (303) 844-0347.

Donna deHouars

for ALLAN C. NICKELS
Regional Director
Food Stamp Program

Attachment

Dotzi



State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF WORKFORCE SERVICES DIVISION OF EMPLOYMENT DEVELOPMENT

Michael O. Leavitt
Governor

Robert C. Gross
Executive Director

Curtis O. Johnson
Deputy Director

1385 South State Street
Salt Lake City, Utah 84115
(801) 468-0000
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Equal Opportunity Employer

November 18, 1998

EDD-GMENDEN-0018-98

Allan C. Nickels, Regional Director
Food and Nutrition Service
USDA, MPR
1244 Speer Boulevard
Denver, Colorado 80204

RE: Extension of Food Stamp Waiver #970138

Dear Mr. Nickels:

Enclosed, you will find our request for an extension of the waiver to Section 6 of the Food Stamp Act, as amended by Section 824 of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act (PRWORA) of 1996, Public Law 104-193. Under that waiver, Utah is allowed to waive the three month restriction on Food Stamp Program participation for certain able-bodied adults who live in areas that do not have sufficient number of jobs to provide employment for those individuals.

Utah hereby requests this waiver for the following counties effective December 1, 1998:

Duchesne	Kane	Garfield	Grand
Emery	San Juan	Uintah	

This request is based on the U.S. Department of Labor's (DOL) designated **Labor Surplus Areas** as identified in the August 1998 DOL publication, Area Trends. Copies of the applicable pages of that publication are attached to this letter.

We appreciate your continued efforts to assist us with our waiver requests. If you have any questions, please contact Gordon Mendenhall at 801-468-0125.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Curtis O. Johnson'.

Curtis O. Johnson
Deputy Director

Enclosure

c: Helen Thatcher
Marie Christman
Mary Pannunzio
Kathleen Johnson
Karla Aguirre
Mike O'Brien
Jill Drury

GM/kr

Area Trends

In Employment and Unemployment

U.S. Department of Labor

Employment and Training Administration
United States Employment Service

AUGUST 1998

Eligible Labor Surplus Areas

iii

Procedures for Classifying Labor Surplus Areas

iii

Labor Surplus Area List

iii

Listing of Labor Surplus Areas

1

Eligible Labor Surplus Areas

Procedures for Classifying Labor Surplus Areas

Labor surplus areas are classified on the basis of civil jurisdictions rather than on a metropolitan area or labor market area basis. Under the basic labor surplus area program procedures, area classifications are made on the basis of civil jurisdictions. Under the program's exceptional circumstance procedures, labor surplus area classifications can be made on the basis of civil jurisdictions, Metropolitan Statistical Areas or Primary Metropolitan Statistical Areas.

Civil jurisdictions are now defined as all cities with a population of at least 25,000 and all counties. Townships of 25,000 or more population are also considered as civil jurisdictions in 4 States (Michigan, New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania). In Connecticut, Massachusetts, Puerto Rico, and Rhode Island where counties have very limited or no government functions, the classifications are done for individual towns.

A civil jurisdiction is classified as a labor surplus area when its average unemployment rate was at least 20 percent above the average unemployment rate for all States (including the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico) during the previous 2 calendar years. During periods of high national unemployment, the 20 percent ratio is disregarded and an area is classified as a labor surplus area if its unemployment rate during the previous 2 calendar years was 10 percent or more. This 10 percent ceiling concept comes into operation whenever the 2-year average unemployment rate for all States was 8.3 percent or above (i.e., 8.3 percent times the 1.20 ratio equals 10.0 percent). Similarly, a "floor" concept of 6.0 percent is used during periods of low national unemployment in order for an area to qualify as a labor surplus area. The 6 percent "floor" comes into effect whenever the average unemployment rate for all States during the 2-year reference period was 5.0 percent or less.

The classification procedures also provide for the designation of labor surplus areas under exceptional circumstance criteria. These procedures permit the regular classification criteria to be waived when an area experiences a significant increase in unemployment which is not temporary or seasonal and which was not adequately reflected in the data for the 2-year reference period. In order for an area to be classified as a labor surplus area under the exceptional circumstance criteria, the State employment security agency must submit a petition requesting such classification to the Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration. The current conditions for exceptional circumstance classification

are: an area unemployment rate of at least 6.7 percent for each of the 3 most recent months; projected unemployment rate of at least 6.7 percent for each of the next 12 months; and documented information that the exceptional circumstance event has already occurred. The State employment security agencies may file petitions on behalf of civil jurisdictions, as well as Metropolitan Statistical Areas or Primary Metropolitan Statistical Areas, as defined by the Office of Management and Budget. The addresses of the State employment security agencies are provided on the inside back cover.

The Department of Labor issues the labor surplus area listing on a fiscal year basis. The listing becomes effective each October 1 and remains in effect through the following September 30. During the course of the fiscal year, the annual listing is updated on the basis of exceptional circumstance petitions submitted by the State employment security agencies and approved by the Employment and Training Administration. The reference period used in preparing the current list was January 1995 through December 1996. The national average unemployment rate during this period (including data for Puerto Rico) was 5.6 percent. The qualifying rate for labor surplus area classification is therefore 6.7 percent (5.6 percent times 1.20 equals 6.7 percent). Areas are therefore included on the current annual labor surplus area listing because their average unemployment rate during the reference period was 6.7 percent or above.

Labor Surplus Area List

The Fiscal Year 1998 labor surplus area list, which follows, contains 1,408 areas. All of the qualifying areas in the Nation are listed in alphabetical order by State or State equivalent. Two States, Delaware and Iowa, have no civil jurisdictions that qualify as labor surplus areas for Fiscal Year 1998.

The current list of eligible areas will be in effect until September 1998. No additional areas have been added to the list this month.

09/09/98 08:00 FAX 501 336 7808 LMI 4001.001

ELIGIBLE LABOR SURPLUS AREAS

CIVIL JURISDICTIONS INCLUDED

TEXAS (CONT'D)

REEVES COUNTY
RUSK COUNTY
SABINE COUNTY
SAN PATRICIO COUNTY
SHELBY COUNTY
SOCORRO CITY

SOMERVELL COUNTY
STARR COUNTY
TEXARKANA CITY TEX

TEXAS CITY

TITUS COUNTY
TYLER CITY

TYLER COUNTY
UVALDE COUNTY
BALANCE OF VAL VERDE COUNTY

BALANCE OF WEBB COUNTY

WILLACY COUNTY
WINKLER COUNTY
YOUNG COUNTY
ZAPATA COUNTY
ZAVALA COUNTY

UTAH

DUCHESNE COUNTY
EMERY COUNTY
GARFIELD COUNTY
GRAND COUNTY
KANE COUNTY
SAN JUAN COUNTY
UINTAH COUNTY

REEVES COUNTY
RUSK COUNTY
SABINE COUNTY
SAN PATRICIO COUNTY
SHELBY COUNTY
SOCORRO CITY IN
EL PASO COUNTY
SOMERVELL COUNTY
STARR COUNTY
TEXARKANA CITY TEX IN
BOWIE COUNTY
TEXAS CITY IN
GALVESTON COUNTY
TITUS COUNTY
TYLER CITY IN
SMITH COUNTY
TYLER COUNTY
UVALDE COUNTY
VAL VERDE COUNTY LESS
DEL RIO CITY
WEBB COUNTY LESS
LAREDO CITY
WILLACY COUNTY
WINKLER COUNTY
YOUNG COUNTY
ZAPATA COUNTY
ZAVALA COUNTY

DUCHESNE COUNTY
EMERY COUNTY
GARFIELD COUNTY
GRAND COUNTY
KANE COUNTY
SAN JUAN COUNTY
UINTAH COUNTY