



**United States
Department of
Agriculture**

Food and Consumer
Service

Northeast Region

10 Causeway Street, Room 501
Boston, MA 02222



Date:

MAR 7 1999

Reply to Attention of:

NEFS-100

Subject:

ABAWD Waiver Extension Request, Vermont (VT)

To:

Art Foley, Director
Program Development Division

Attached is a request dated March 30, 1999, from the VT Department of Social Services to exempt individuals from Section 6(o) of the Food Stamp Act, as amended by Section 824 of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Act of 1996.

The State agency requests an extension of waiver #970228 for residents of Essex and Orleans counties based on their designation as Labor Surplus Areas.

We recommend approval of this waiver. If you need more information on this, please contact Susan Mahan at (617) 565-6382.

Mary Ann Ferris, Chief
State Program Improvement
Food Stamp Program
Northeast Region

Attachment





State of Vermont

AGENCY OF HUMAN SERVICES

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE
COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE
103 South Main Street
Waterbury, Vermont 05671-1201

Telephone: (802) 241-2852
Fax: (802) 241-2830

March 30, 1999

Robert Canavan
Director, Food Stamp Program
USDA/FNS/NERO
10 Causeway Street, Room 501
Boston, MA 02222-1604

RE: Extension of Waiver #970228
Exemption for ABAWDs in Labor Surplus Areas

Dear Mr. Canavan:

This letter transmits Vermont's request for extension of the waiver that allows Vermont to exempt ABAWDs in labor surplus areas designated by the U.S. Department of Labor.

If you have questions about this request, please get in touch with Donna Jenckes, Policy, Planning, and Evaluation Director, at 802-241-2794 or donna.j@wpgate1.ahs.state.vt.us.

Sincerely,


M. Jane Kitchel

cc: D. Jenckes

APR - 2 1999

**FNS Waiver Request
Vermont Department of Social Welfare**

1. Waiver Serial Number

970228

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

Vermont

6. Region

Northeast

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), 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 no fewer than three 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 requirements of a program under Section 20 or a comparable program established by the state.

Section 6(o) 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

Vermont requests an extension to its waiver for individuals residing in areas that do not have a sufficient number of jobs to provide employment for individuals subject to Section 824 of the PRWORA.

This waiver allows an exemption for groups of individuals residing in the Newport service district, which includes Essex and Orleans Counties. Essex and Orleans Counties are designated as labor surplus areas (LSAs) by the U.S. Department of Labor.

9. Justification for Request

The Newport service district includes towns in Essex and Orleans Counties. Essex and Orleans Counties are designated as labor surplus areas (LSAs) by the U.S. Department of Labor. There are no towns in the Newport service district outside Essex and Orleans Counties.

10. Anticipated Impact on Households and State Agency Operations

This waiver will continue to benefit food stamp participants residing in the Newport service district.

11. Caseload Information

Individuals residing in the Newport service district who would otherwise be required to comply with the work requirements of Section 6(o) are exempt under this waiver.

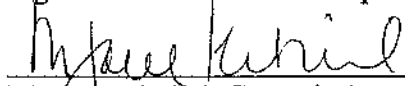
12. Anticipated Implementation Date and Time Period for Which Waiver Is Needed

Vermont requests an extension of this waiver through April 30, 2001.

13. Proposed QC Review Procedures

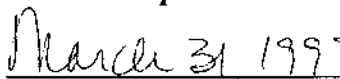
There are no special quality control review procedures required by this waiver.

14. Signature and Title of Requesting Official



M. Jane Kitchel, Commissioner
Vermont Department of Social Welfare

15. Date of Request



date signed

April 13, 1999 (am)

TO: Margaret Bakto

I called the NERO in regard to the Vermont ABAWD Waiver #970228 to see if the State agency wanted to add another county instead of the two mentioned in the waiver (Essex and Orleans Counties) as LSA's. I was told that Vermont did not want Grand Isle County mentioned and they knew that the county was on the LSA Listing.--Jennie