



United States Department of Agriculture
Food and Nutrition Service

Western Region

MAR 10 2000

Reply to
Attn of: FS-10-6-AZ/WAIVERS #970148 & #970149

Subject: FSP- Arizona- ABAWDs Waivers Extension Request - Labor Surplus Areas and certain
Indian Reservations

To:

Art Foley, Director
Program Development Division
Food Stamp Program

Attached is Arizona's request to extend waivers 970148 and 970149. These waivers exempt the State's Labor Surplus Areas (LSAs), and certain Indian reservations from the provisions of Section 6(o)(2) of the Food Stamp Act, as amended by Section 824 of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act (PRWORA) of 1996. Following is a list of counties and reservations and their exemption method:

Waiver #970148

<u>County</u>	<u>Exemption Criteria</u>
Apache	LSA
Cochise (less Sierra Vista)	LSA
Coconino (including Flagstaff)	LSA
Gila	LSA
Graham	LSA
Greenlee	LSA
La Paz	LSA
Navajo	LSA
Santa Cruz	LSA
Yuma	LSA

Waiver #970149

Reservation

Exemption Criteria

Gila River

Unemployment over 10%

Hualapai

Unemployment over 10%

Kaibab

Unemployment over 10%

Papago and San Xavier portions
of the Tohono O'odham Nation

Unemployment over 10%

Pascua Yaqui

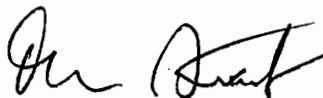
Unemployment over 10%

The State attached the following data:

- Bureau of Labor Statistics listing counties that are Labor Surplus Areas (LSAs) for fiscal year 2000. This applies to all the counties that are exempted.
- Arizona Department of Labor (ADOL) statistics indicating the reservations have had an unemployment rate of over 10% for the period of January to December 1999.

The State is requesting extensions of one year. We recommend approval of the extensions.

If you have any questions, please contact Krister Engdahl at (415) 705-1320 x311.



DENNIS STEWART
Regional Director
Food Stamp Program
Western Region

Attachments

cc: Phoenix F/O (electronic)
POS, FSP, WRO



ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC SECURITY

1717 W. Jefferson - P.O. Box 6123 - Phoenix, AZ 85005

Jane Dee Hull
Governor

John L. Clayton
Director

MAR 3 2000

Dennis Stewart
Regional Director
Food Stamp Program
Western Region
550 Kearny Street
San Francisco, CA 94108

Dear Mr. Stewart:

The State of Arizona seeks extensions to the current food stamp waivers which exempt certain individuals from provisions established by the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996. The Act limits the participation period for certain able-bodied adults, and authorizes the U.S. Department of Agriculture to grant States waivers for individuals who reside in areas that have a high unemployment rate or which have been designated Labor Surplus Areas specifically identified by the Department of Labor (DOL).

An extension of waiver #970148 is requested. The DOL continues to classify the following Arizona counties to be labor surplus areas for federal fiscal year 2000: Apache, Cochise (less Sierra Vista), Coconino, Gila, Graham, Greenlee, La Paz, Navajo, Santa Cruz, Yuma. The DOL no longer classifies Mohave County a labor surplus area

An extension of waiver #970149 is requested. This extension request is based on the Special Unemployment Report for January through December 1999 for Arizona Local Area Statistics Program--Indian Reservations. This report denotes the following changes to Indian Reservations not located within a labor surplus county. Gila River: unemployment at 19.3%; Hualapai: unemployment at 21.4%; Kaibab: unemployment at 13.8%; Papago and San Xavier portions of Tohono O' Odham Nation: unemployment at 14.1% and 10.1% respectively; and Pascua Yaqui: unemployment at 22.9%.

In addition to the above, and in accordance with Section 6(o) of the Food Stamp Act, Arizona requests the expansion of its 15 percent individual exemption for able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWD's). In addition to participants who reside more than a three hour round trip to the nearest Food Stamp Employment & Training office, Arizona will include within its ABAWD 15 percent exemption those ABAWD individuals located in Mohave County who reside on the Fort Mohave Indian Reservation. It is anticipated that this expansion will use less than two of Arizona's 15 percent monthly allocation of 239 persons.

Arizona requests that these extensions from the ABAWD work requirement provisions be approved based on the above labor surplus area designations and in the case of Indian Reservations unemployment rates above ten percent. The 2000 DOL Labor Surplus Area list and the Arizona Local Area Statistics Special Unemployment Report for January - December 1999 includes cities, counties, and reservations meeting the exempt criteria.

Your prompt attention to this request is greatly appreciated. If you have questions or require additional information, please contact Vince Wood, Assistant Director, Department of Economic Security at (602) 542-3596.

Sincerely,


John L. Clayton

Enclosures

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MAR 6 1999
PHOENIX, ARIZONA

Waiver Request

1. **Waiver serial number:**

970148

2. **Type of request:**

Modification and extension

3. **Primary regulation citation:**

Section 6 of the Food Stamp Act 1977 (7 U.S.C. 2015); HR 3734 "The Personal Responsibility and Reconciliation Act of 1996", Section 824, Work Requirement.

4. **Secondary regulation citation:**

Not applicable

5. **State:**

Arizona

6. **Region:**

Western Region

7. **Regulatory requirements:**

Work Requirement: - 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 three 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. Exception to the work requirements are that the individual is (A) under 18 or over 50 years of age; (B) medically certified as physically or mentally unfit for employment; (C) a parent or other member of a household with the responsibility for a dependent child; (D) otherwise exempt under subsection (d)(2), Section 6 of the Food Stamp Act; or (E) a pregnant woman.

8. **Proposed alternative procedures:**

The State of Arizona, Department of Economic Security requests a modification and extension of waiver # 970148 to exclude from the Work Requirements, individuals residing in the DOL annual list of designated labor surplus areas.

9. **Justification for request:**

The extension will continue to ensure equitable distribution of food stamp benefits in areas suffering from a high incidence of unemployment.

The Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 mandates that all individuals shall be ineligible to participate in the food stamp program as a member of any household if, during the preceding 36 month period, they received food stamp benefits for three months or more during which the individuals did not work a minimum of 80 hours per month or 20 hours weekly (average monthly).

As of October 15, 1999, the latest data released from the Department of Labor (DOL), identifies Apache, Cochise (less Sierra Vista), Coconino, Gila, Graham, Greenlee, La Paz, Navajo, Santa Cruz, and Yuma counties as labor surplus areas for federal fiscal year 2000 and eligible for federal waiver approvals.

NOTE: Mohave County is no longer included in this waiver. The DOL Labor Surplus Area list is attached.

Approval of this waiver extension request will allow Arizona to exclude these counties as labor surplus areas, from the work requirement eligibility criteria.

10. **Anticipated impact on households and State agency operations:**

- | | | |
|----|------------------|---|
| A. | Client Benefits: | Will not penalize individuals living in labor surplus areas who lack the same opportunity to find employment as others. |
| B. | Worker Benefits | Monitoring and tracking of work compliance in labor surplus areas will not be required. |

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

All individuals residing in Apache, Cochise, Coconino, Gila, Graham, Greenlee, La Paz, Navajo, Santa Cruz, and Yuma counties will be exempt.

12. **Anticipated implementation date and time period for which waiver is needed:**

The waiver extension is requested for a period of one year upon approval from FNS. The proposed extension date is effective April 1, 2000.

13. **State Agency submitting Waiver Request:**

Arizona Department of Economic Security, Family Assistance Administration

Contact Person: Vince Wood, Assistant Director
Arizona Department of Economic Security
Division of Benefits & Medical Eligibility
1789 West Jefferson
Phoenix, Arizona 85007
(602) 542-3596

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

 
Signature Title

15. **Date of State Agency Request:**