



Jeb Bush
Governor

Kathleen A. Kearney
Secretary

February 2, 2000

Virgil L. Conrad
Regional Administrator
Food and Nutrition Service
United States Department of Agriculture
61 Forsyth Street, SW, Room 8T36
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

Dear Mr. Conrad:

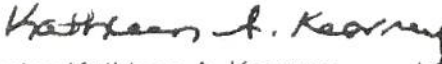
Enclosed are two waiver extension requests of Public Law 104-193, Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Act, concerning Section 824. The waiver extension requests are for work requirements for able-bodied adults without dependents.

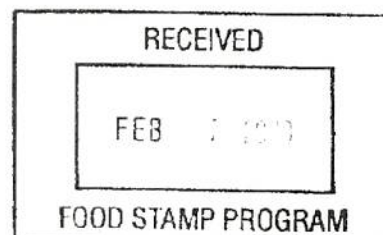
The extension request for Waiver 970133 is for counties and areas that have over a 10 percent unemployment rate. The extension request for Waiver 970134 is for counties and areas that are designated as labor surplus areas.

An expeditious processing of these requests is appreciated. Florida has exercised the option to exempt up to fifteen percent of able-bodied adults without dependents in addition to the individuals included in the two waiver extensions.

If there are questions concerning the waiver extension requests, please call me at (850) 487-1111, or Patricia Hall at (850) 921-5574.

Very truly yours,


Judge Kathleen A. Kearney
Secretary



1317 Winewood Boulevard, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0700

The Department of Children and Families is committed to working in partnership with local communities to ensure safety, well-being and self-sufficiency for the people we serve.



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WAIVER REQUEST

1. WAIVER SERIAL NUMBER: 970133
2. TYPE OF REQUEST: Extension (Renewal)
3. PRIMARY REGULATION CITATION: Public Law 104-193
Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Act
4. SECONDARY REGULATION CITATION: Section 824
Work Requirement for Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents
5. STATE: Florida
6. REGION: Southeast
7. REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS: Under this section of the Act, individuals are only eligible for food stamps three months out of thirty-six unless the individual is exempt. An individual is exempt from this requirement if the individual is: (1) working at least 20 hours per week (averaged monthly), (2) participating in a work experience or workfare program for 20 hours or more per week, (3) under 18 or over 50 years of age, (4) medically certified as physically or mentally unfit for employment, (5) responsible for a dependent child, (6) pregnant, or (7) otherwise exempt from work requirements.
8. PROPOSED ALTERNATIVE PROCEDURES: Florida requests a waiver from the Work Requirement for Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents regulation for counties and areas with an unemployment rate over 10%. Florida's Department of Labor and Employment Security, Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS), which are produced in cooperation with the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, were used to determine unemployment rates. Unemployment rates for the most recent six months (June through November) for 1999 were used to identify the counties and areas with an unemployment rate over 10% (see Attachment A).

1317 Winewood Boulevard, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0700

*Working in partnership with local communities to help people be self-sufficient
and live in stable families and communities.*

Page 2
 Waiver Extension Request
 Unemployment Over 10%

The counties and areas, which qualify for this waiver, are:

COUNTY	UNEMPLOYMENT RATE	NUMBER OF ABAWDS Nov. 1999
Gulf	11.8%	51
Hardee	12.9%	50
Hendry	17.1%	3
St. Lucie	12.0%	267
		TOTAL: 371*(1)

AREAS*(2)	RATE
Ft. Pierce City	19.5%

*(1) All of the counties included in this waiver extension request are also designated as labor surplus areas and are included in the extension request for waiver 970134.

*(2) The city included in this waiver extension request is located in a county that is designated as a labor surplus area and is included in the extension request for waiver 970134.

9. JUSTIFICATION FOR REQUEST: As stated in number 8 above, these counties and areas have unemployment rates over 10%. Due to the high unemployment rate, the counties and areas are unable to provide a sufficient number of job opportunities. Usually the individuals have little work history, and employment prospects for these individuals are greatly diminished.

10. ANTICIPATED IMPACT ON HOUSEHOLDS AND STATE AGENCY: The exempt able-bodied adults without dependents would continue to be eligible for food stamp benefits, thus allowing them an extended period of time to utilize the Food Stamp Employment and Training Program and the employment services of the Department of Labor and Employment Security, Jobs and Benefits Offices.

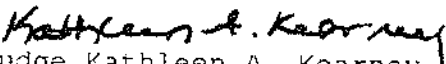
11. CASELOAD INFORMATION: This waiver would affect 4 of the 67 counties in Florida. This waiver extension would exempt 371 able-bodied adults without dependents.

Page 3
Waiver Extension Request
Unemployment Over 10%

12. TIME PERIOD: Florida is requesting this waiver be approved for the period March 1, 2000 through February 28, 2001. Prior to March 2001, this waiver will be re-evaluated and re submitted. Additional counties/areas may be added to this request if those counties/areas experience a three consecutive month average unemployment rate over 10%.

13. QUALITY CONTROL REVIEW PROCEDURES: Quality Control procedures will not be affected because the counties/areas will be exempt from the Work Requirement for Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents regulation during quality control reviews.

14. SIGNATURE:


Judge Kathleen A. Kearney
Secretary

15. DATE: 2/2/00