

FEB - 2 2000

NEFS-100

ABAWD Waiver Extension Request, Maine (ME)

Art Foley, Director
Program Development Division

Enclosed please find the January 20, 2000 request from the State of Maine to extend wavier #970140. This waiver allows residents of Aroostook, Franklin, Oxford, Piscataquis, Somerset and Washington counties and the Ellsworth/Bar Harbor labor market area to be exempt from the work requirements of Section 824 of PRWORA based on insufficient jobs.

The prior extension of waiver #970140 was granted through March 31, 2000. The State has provided data which indicates that the average unemployment rate in the designated areas for the 24-month period beginning December 1997 through November 1999 exceeded 20 percent of the national average during the same period. Therefore, we recommend approval of this waiver extension.

If you have any questions regarding this wavier request, please call Kristen Dowling Hyatt on (617) 565-6401.

Original Signed by:
Mary A. Ferris

Mary A. Ferris, Chief
State Program Improvement Section
Food Stamp Program
Northeast Region

Attachment

FNS:NEFS-100:Hyatt:2/1/00:final:jc:2/1/00
spi2-1kdh.doc

CC: FSI 10-6-00 ME, FWS

2/1
JC
KDH
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MRB
2/2



STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
11 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE
04333-0011

ANGUS S. KING, JR.
GOVERNOR

KEVIN W. CONCANNON
COMMISSIONER

January 20, 2000

Robert L. Canavan
Food Stamp Director
Food & Nutrition Services
NERO
10 Causeway Street
Boston, MA 02222

Dear Mr. Canavan:

Please find the enclosed request of extension for waiver #970140. This waiver allowed residents of designated areas in Maine to be exempt from time limited accessibility to the food stamp program as described at Section 824 of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act.

The unemployment rates for these areas exceed the national average by more than 20 per cent.

Thank you for any assistance you may provide. If you have any questions, please contact Rick Morrow at (207) 287-5093.

Sincerely,

Judy H.M. Williams, Director
Bureau of Family Independence



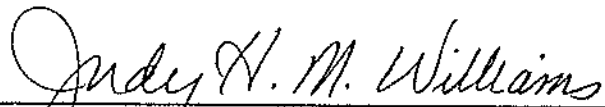
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WAIVER REQUEST OUTLINE

1. **Waiver serial number (if request is extension):** 970140
2. **Type of request:** Extension
3. **Primary regulation citation, if any** 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, if any:**
5. **State:** Maine
6. **Region:** NERO
7. **Regulatory requirements:** Section 6(o) of the Food Stamp Act, as amended by Section 824 of the Personal Responsibility and Work 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 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 of 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) of the Food Stamp Act, as amended by Section 824 of the PRWORA, also provides that, upon 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:** The State of Maine is requesting to waive the requirements of Section 824 of the PRWORA on the basis of insufficient jobs for the residents of the following counties: Aroostook, Franklin, Oxford, Piscataquis, Somerset, and Washington. The last extension also included the Ellsworth/Bar Harbor LMA.
9. **Justification for request:** The national average unemployment rate for the period of December, 1997 through November, 1999 was 4.39. The average unemployment rate for the areas covered in this waiver extension exceeds 1.20 percent of the national average.
10. **Anticipated impact on households and State agency operations:** This waiver will provide consistency for households and State agency operations in areas where unemployment remains higher than the national average.

11. **Caseload information, including percent, characteristics, and quality control error rate for affected portion:** The caseload for these areas represent 31 percent of the caseload for the state. There are no quality control procedures involved.
12. **Anticipated implementation date and time period for which waiver is needed:**
This waiver has an expiration date of March 31, 2000. We request a one-year extension.
13. **Proposed quality control review procedures:** There are no special quality control procedures needed in conjunction with this waiver.
14. **Signature and title of requesting official:**

Judy H. M. Williams, Director, Bureau of Family Independence
Department of Human Services
15. **Date of request:** January 20, 2000