



CPT

MAR 17 2000

Date:

**United States
Department of
Agriculture**

Food and Consumer
Service

Mid-Atlantic Region

Mercer Corporate Park
300 Corporate Boulevard
Robbinsville, N.J. 08691-1598

Reply to Attention of:

Subject:

Pennsylvania Waiver Request: PRWORA Section 824

To:

Art Foley, Director
Program Development Division



Attached is Pennsylvania's request of February 24, 2000, to exempt 33 counties and eight cities, identified as LSAs, from the requirements of PRWORA Section 824.

In a conversation with staff from Pennsylvania, March 15, 2000, they advised to **change the extension to May 31, 2001**, instead of September 30, 2000.

If you have questions, please phone Joe Yehl, (609) 259-5069, or Marian Wig, (609) 259-5059.

Sincerely,

Joe Weingart
JOSEPH WEINGART
Regional Director
Food Stamp Program

Attachment



MAR 16 2000

Pennsylvania Waiver Request: PRWORA Section 824

Art Foley, Director
Program Development Division

Attached is Pennsylvania's request of February 24, 2000, to exempt 33 counties and eight cities, identified as LSAs, from the requirements of PRWORA Section 824.

In a conversation with staff from Pennsylvania, March 15, 2000, they advised to **change the extension to May 31, 2001**, instead of September 30, 2000.

If you have questions, please phone Joe Yehl, (609) 259-5069, or Marian Wig, (609) 259-5059

Sincerely,

Joe 3/16/00
JOSEPH WEINGART
Regional Director
Food Stamp Program

Attachment
FNS MARO.FSP.SOS.EOU:MWIG:mw/3-15-00
Readers: fb/jy
File *FS-5-1-1a, PA, PRWORA ABAWD Waiver (FY00); and
FS-10-6-1, PA ABAWD Waiver (FY00)
doc:\shared\EOIPA_AWaiExt
suspense: 4-17-00
*waiver and other background info filed here

Jim 3/16/00 *Joe 3/16/2000*

MW 3/15/00

OPTIONAL FORM 89 (7-90)

FAX TRANSMITTAL

To: Margaret Batko		# of pages = 2	
Dept/Agency		From: Brenda Styles	
Fax #		Phone #	
		Fax # Joe Yehl	

NCH TRAN 01-000



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE
P.O. BOX 2675
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 17105-2675

Feather O. Houstoun
Secretary

FEB 24 2000

Telephone 717-787-2600/3600
FAX 717-772-2062

Mr. Joseph Weingart
Regional Director
United States Department of Agriculture
Food and Nutrition Service
Mid-Atlantic Region
Mercer Corporate Park
300 Corporate Boulevard
Robbinsville, New Jersey 08691-1598

RECEIVED
FEB 24 2000
FNS
N.J.

Dear Mr. Weingart:

I am requesting an extension of Pennsylvania's current waiver (980063) of the work requirement, set forth in Section 824 of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (PRWORA) that amends Section 6 of the Food Stamp Act of 1977 (7U.S.C. 2015). Specifically, I am requesting the following counties: Armstrong, Bedford, Cambria, Cameron, Carbon, Clearfield, Clinton, Columbia, Fayette, Forest, Fulton, Greene, Huntingdon, Indiana, Jefferson, Juniata, Lackawanna, Luzerne, Mifflin, Monroe, Northumberland, Philadelphia, Potter, Schuylkill, Somerset, Sullivan, Susquehanna, Tioga, Venango, Wayne, and Wyoming and the cities of Altoona, Chester, Erie, McKeesport, Reading, Williamsport, and York which are currently waived and set to expire May 31, 2000 be extended through September 30, 2000. Further, I am requesting the additional counties of Elk and McKean and the City of Scranton be waived through September 30, 2000. These current and additional counties and cities are identified as Labor Surplus Areas (LSAs) in the Federal Register, Vol. 64 No. 199/Friday, October 15, 1999. In the LSAs, it is reasonable to expect that food stamp clients will not be able to obtain employment within the three months allowed to meet the work requirements. Our current waiver request was based on an October 1998 LSA listing of the designated areas in the State.

Section 824 amends Section 6 of the Food Stamp Act. The work requirement established by this section requires individuals to work an average of 20 hours per week to maintain eligibility for food stamps. If not engaged in a work activity, the food stamp benefits are limited to 3 months out of 36. Section (o) (4) permits a state to request a waiver of the application of the work requirement for any group of individuals in the state who reside in an area which has an unemployment rate of over 10 percent or does not have a sufficient number of jobs available for individuals.

Thank you for your consideration of this waiver request.

Sincerely,

Feather O. Houstoun

MAR 16 2000

Pennsylvania Waiver Request: PRWORA Section 824

Art Foley, Director
Program Development Division

Attached is Pennsylvania's request of February 24, 2000, to exempt 33 counties and eight cities, identified as LSAs, from the requirements of PRWORA Section 824.

In a conversation with staff from Pennsylvania, March 15, 2000, they advised to **change the extension to May 31, 2001**, instead of September 30, 2000.

If you have questions, please phone Joe Yehl, (609) 259-5069, or Marian Wig, (609) 259-5059.

Sincerely,

JW 3/16/00
JOSEPH WEINGART
Regional Director
Food Stamp Program

Attachment
FNS:MARO:FSP:SOS:EOU:MWIG:mw:3-15-00
Readers: fb/jy
File: *FS-5-1-1a, PA, PRWORA ABAWD Waiver (FY00); and
FS-10-6-1, PA ABAWD Waiver (FY00)
doc:\shared\EOI\PA_AWaiExt
suspense: 4-17-00
*waiver and other background info. filed here

JY 3/16/00 *JWS 3/16/2000*

MW 3/15/00

OPTIONAL FORM 99 (7-90)

FAX TRANSMITTAL

Margaret Batko		# of pages = 2	
Dept./Agency		From: Brenda Styles	
Fax #		Phone # Joe Yehl	
NSN 7440-01-010-0000		Fax # Joe Yehl	



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE
P.O. BOX 2675
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 17105-2675

Feather O. Houstoun
Secretary

FEB 24 2000

Telephone 717-787-2600/3600
FAX 717-772-2082

Mr. Joseph Weingart
Regional Director
United States Department of Agriculture
Food and Nutrition Service
Mid-Atlantic Region
Mercer Corporate Park
300 Corporate Boulevard
Robbinsville, New Jersey 08691-1598

RECEIVED
FEB 24 2000
FNS
NJ

Dear Mr. Weingart:

I am requesting an extension of Pennsylvania's current waiver (980063) of the work requirement, set forth in Section 824 of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (PRWORA) that amends Section 6 of the Food Stamp Act of 1977 (7U.S.C. 2015). Specifically, I am requesting the following counties: Armstrong, Bedford, Cambria, Cameron, Carbon, Clearfield, Clinton, Columbia, Fayette, Forest, Fulton, Greene, Huntingdon, Indiana, Jefferson, Juniata, Lackawanna, Luzerne, Mifflin, Monroe, Northumberland, Philadelphia, Potter, Schuylkill, Somerset, Sullivan, Susquehanna, Tioga, Venango, Wayne, and Wyoming and the cities of Altoona, Chester, Erie, McKeesport, Reading, Williamsport, and York which are currently waived and set to expire May 31, 2000 be extended through September 30, 2000. Further, I am requesting the additional counties of Elk and McKean and the City of Scranton be waived through September 30, 2000. These current and additional counties and cities are identified as Labor Surplus Areas (LSAs) in the Federal Register, Vol. 64 No. 199/Friday, October 15, 1999. In the LSAs, it is reasonable to expect that food stamp clients will not be able to obtain employment within the three months allowed to meet the work requirements. Our current waiver request was based on an October 1998 LSA listing of the designated areas in the State.

Section 824 amends Section 6 of the Food Stamp Act. The work requirement established by this section requires individuals to work an average of 20 hours per week to maintain eligibility for food stamps. If not engaged in a work activity, the food stamp benefits are limited to 3 months out of 36. Section (c) (4) permits a state to request a waiver of the application of the work requirement for any group of individuals in the state who reside in an area which has an unemployment rate of over 10 percent or does not have a sufficient number of jobs available for individuals.

Thank you for your consideration of this waiver request.

Sincerely,

Feather O. Houstoun