



**United States
Department of
Agriculture**

Food and Consumer
Service

Northeast Region

10 Causeway Street, Room 501
Boston, MA 02222



Date:

Reply to Attention of:

NEFS-100

Subject:

ABAWD Waiver Extension request, Rhode Island (RI)

To:

Art Foley, Director
Program Development Division

Attached is a November 3, 1999, request from the RI Department of Human 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 Reconciliation Act of 1996.

The State agency requests an extension of its current waiver #970051, due to expire on December 31, 1999. The waiver extension request applies only to individuals residing in the towns of Central Falls, Pawtucket, New Shoreham, and Providence, which were designated as Labor Surplus Areas from October 1, 1999, through September 30, 2000.

If you need more information about this waiver request, please contact Susan Mahan at (617) 565-6382.

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

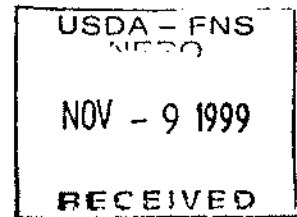
Attachment



State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations



DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
Office of the Director



November 3, 1999

Frances E. Zorn
Regional Administrator
United States Department of Agriculture
Food and Nutrition Service
Northeast Region
10 Causeway Street
Boston, MA 02222

Dear Ms. Zorn:

Rhode Island is requesting to modify and extend waiver number 970051 which exempts certain individuals from the requirements of Abled Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWD) regulations.

The current waiver exempting the residents of Providence, New Shoreham, Central Falls, and Charlestown from ABAWD requirements concludes December 31, 1999. This modify and extend request applies to four Rhode Island municipalities that have been recently designated as Labor Surplus Areas (LSA) by the United States Department of Labor. We wish to implement this modification and extension of the waiver on January 1, 2000.

Enclosed for your review are documents relating to the current LSA designations as well as a listing of the current number of individuals subject to ABAWD regulations in Rhode Island by city and town.

Thank you for your timely consideration of this matter. If you have any questions, or need of additional information, please call Mr. Robert McDonough at (401) 462-2423.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Christine C. Ferguson".

Christine C. Ferguson
Director

CCF:ejh
Enclosures

WAIVER REQUEST

1. **Waiver Serial Number:** 970051
2. **Type of Request:** Modification/Extension
3. **Primary Regulation Citation:** Section 6(o) of the Food Stamp Act, as amended by Section 824 of the Personal Responsibility Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act (PROWORA) of 1996, P.L. 104-193.
4. **Secondary Regulation Citation:** Not applicable.
5. **State:** Rhode Island
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 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 not less than three (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 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 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:** Rhode Island is requesting to exempt individuals from the work requirement that reside in four (4) cities or towns that are considered to have insufficient jobs. These cities and towns have been designated as "Labor Surplus Areas (LSA's)" by the Department of Labor. They are as follows: Central Falls, Pawtucket, New Shoreham, and Providence.

Approval of this waiver would allow individuals who reside in areas where there are insufficient jobs the opportunity to participate in the Food Stamp Program without being required to meet unrealistic program work requirements. It would also ease the burden for individuals trying to comply with work requirements which are unreasonable given the local economic environment. Finally, it would provide for more efficient operation of the Food Stamp Program by allowing the State agency to focus its efforts and resources in regard to work requirements on those households most likely to benefit.

9. **Justification for Request:** To justify this extension request, Rhode Island is submitting documentation from the U.S. Department of Labor identifying Rhode Island's Labor Surplus Areas. This information was obtained from the Rhode Island Department of Labor and Training.
10. **Anticipated Impact on Households and State Agency Operations:** The granting of this extension request would allow eligible individuals in affected areas to continue to receive benefits as the state implements employment and training activities to service this population.
11. **Caseload Information:** There are currently 1,338 individuals subject to ABAWD regulations living in the cities or towns designated as labor surplus areas. These individuals represent 83 percent of the total ABAWD population.
12. **Anticipated Implementation Date:** Rhode Island is requesting to implement this extension January 1, 2000 and is requesting this extension through December 31, 2000.
13. **Quality Control Procedures:** Not applicable.
14. **Signature and Title of Requesting Official:**

Robert J. McDonough
Administrator
15. **Date of Request:** November 3, 1999

RECEIVED

NOV 02 1999

INDIVIDUAL & FAMILY
SUPPORT SERVICES

Rhode Island Labor Surplus Areas

Effective October 1, 1999, the U.S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration, released the following list of labor surplus areas for the State of Rhode Island:

Central Falls

Pawtucket

New Shoreham

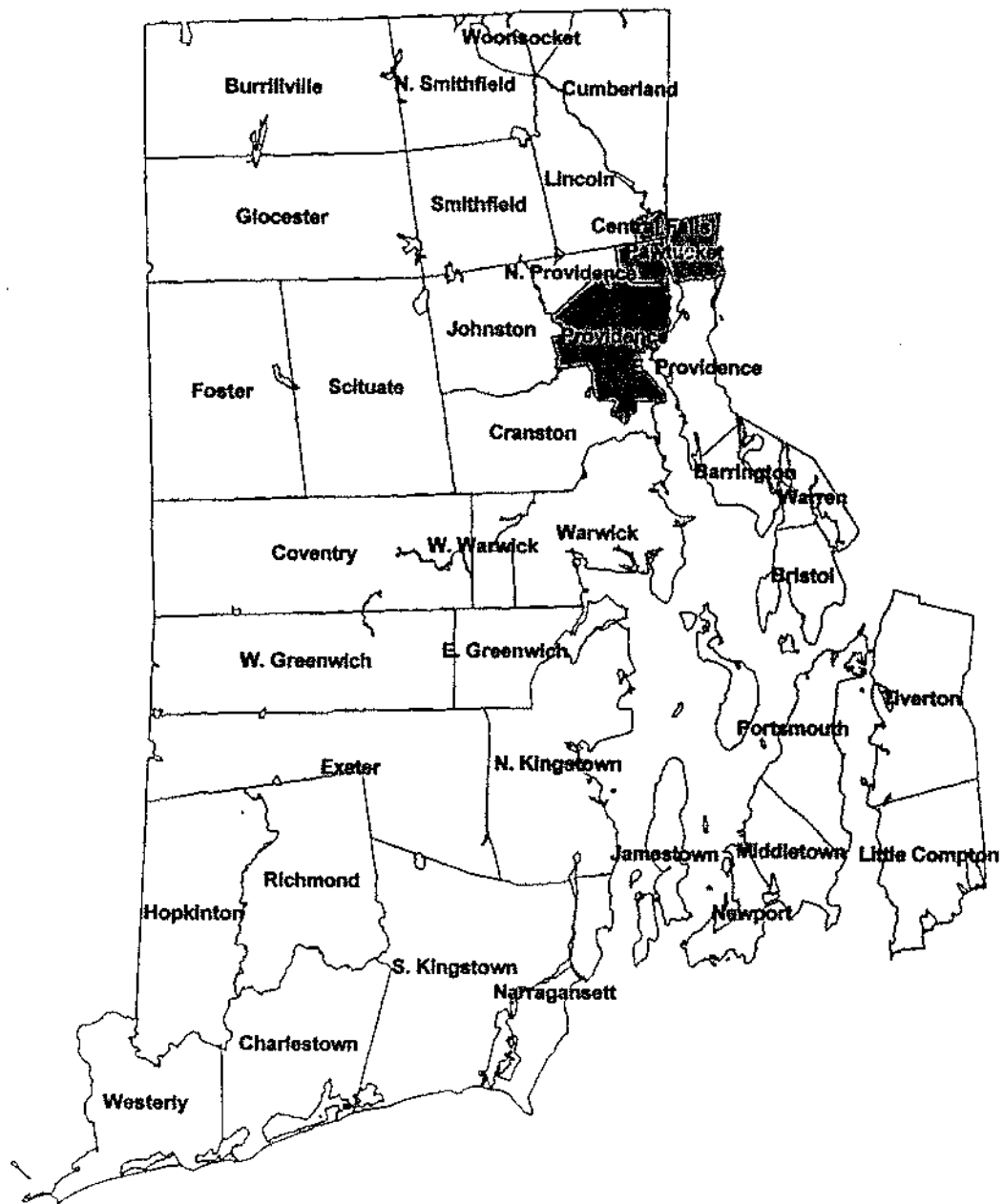
Providence

This list will remain in effect until September 30, 2000. Employers located in the four labor surplus areas may be given preference in bidding on federal procurement contracts. The purpose in providing such preference is to help direct the government's procurement dollars into areas where people are in the most severe economic need based on their high unemployment rates.

Rhode Island's

Labor Surplus Areas

October 1, 1999-September 30, 2000



Labor Surplus Areas

FOOD STAMP RECIPIENTS AGE 18 - 49 MEETING ABLE - BODIED CRITERIA
 MIS11668 - 10/28/99

23145125.5	
BARR	2
BRIS	3
BURR	4
CFAL	88
CHAR	5
COVT	6
CRAV	20
CUHB	4
EGRN	2
EPRD	24
EXET	14
FOST	0
GLOC	1
HOPK	1
JAHE	0
JOHN	10
LINC	1
LCON	0
MIDD	2
MARR	1
NEEP	21
NSNR	0
NKIN	6
NPRO	8
NSMT	0
PAWT	96
PORT	3
PROV	1154
RICH	1
SCIT	1
SMTH	1
SKIN	5
TIYT	5
WARR	4
WARW	28
WEST	11
WGRN	1
WMAR	12
WOON	61

TOTAL 1607