

TO: Judy Seymour COMPANY:

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From: Name: Glenda Smith
Fax Number:
Voice Phone: 404-562-7029

To: Name: Judy Seymour
Company:
Fax Number: 8-703-305-2486
Voice Phone:

Fax Notes:

Attached, for your review and approval, is a request from Tennessee for a modification to waiver #970085 which allows the S/A to exempt individuals residing in labor surplus areas from the ABAWD provisions. Also, attached is a copy of our e-mail to TN requesting certain revisions/corrections. The S/A has made the requested revisions; therefore, we recommend approval. Please note that three of the additional counties TN is requesting to be covered under this waiver are being included because they are associated with Labor Market Areas. These counties are Bradley, Hamblen and Putnam.

If you have any questions, please advise.

Date and time of transmission: Friday, April 14, 2000 11:18:50 AM
Number of pages including this cover sheet: 14

Smith, Glenda

From: Smith, Glenda
Sent: Wednesday, April 12, 2000 1:28 PM
To: Ramsey, Sandra
Cc: Campbell, Shelia
Subject: TN Waiver #970085 Modification Request- Exempt ABAWDS Due to Labor Surplus

This is in regard to the subject request dated 3-27-2000. We are in support of your request; however, before we can submit this to our National Office with a recommendation for approval, pages 2 and 3 of the waiver request outline need to be revised. Specifically, item 8 needs to be revised as follows:

- 1) delete Hardeman and Lewis Counties - the 1-27-2000 approval of waiver no. 970084 (ABAWDS in Co's w/UR over 10%), indicates that approval under the "10%" waiver was being extended to these two counties due to more recent data that FNS-HQ secured. So, Hardeman and Lewis are already covered by waiver #970084.
- 2) delete Lawrence Co - this county is covered by #970084 (10%), see 1-27-00 approval.
- 3) add Lauderdale Co. - the 1-27-00 approvals moved Lauderdale from 970084 (10%) to 970085 (LSA).
- 4) adjust the total figures, "58" and "four", in the last two sentences in item 8 and adjust the information in item 11.

You may fax these changes in to us and we will forward your request to our National Office as soon as received.

Thanks.

Revised 4/13/00

WAIVER REQUEST

1. **WAIVER SERIAL NUMBER:** 970085
2. **TYPE OF REQUEST:** Modification
3. **PRIMARY REGULATION CITATION:** 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:** N/A
5. **STATE:** Tennessee
6. **REGION:** Southeast
7. **REGULATORY REQUIREMENT:** Section 6(o) of the Food Stamp Act, as amended, by Section 824 of the PRWORA, 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 5 months (effective 11/1/99), 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 for 20 hours or more per week; did not participate in and comply with requirements of a program under Section 20 or a comparable program established by the State; or received benefits because they were exempt from these requirements.

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. **DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ALTERNATIVE PROCEDURES:** Under the current waiver, Tennessee is approved through January 31, 2001 to exempt individuals in 49 counties from the work requirement provisions of Section 6(o) of the PRWORA based on their designation as Labor Surplus Areas (LSAs) by the Employment and Training Administration of the Department of Labor and Workforce Development.

The Center on Budget and Policy Priorities has provided basic calculations (See the attached listing and computations.) of the eligibility of various areas for inclusion in the waiver. Based on this information Tennessee is requesting an additional seven (7) counties be added to the exempt list. The new counties are Bedford, Bradley, Grainger, Hamblen, Jefferson, Putnam, and Weakley. Johnson City in Carter County and Oak Ridge in Roane are the new exempt cities. This is due to having an unemployment rate 20% over the national average.

The counties and the two cities in Carter and Roane counties are:

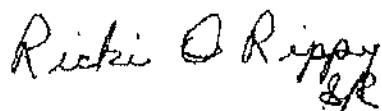
-Bedford	Benton	-Bradley
Campbell	Cannon	Carroll
-Carter (including Johnson City)	Cocke	Crockett
Cumberland	DeKalb	Decatur
Gibson	-Grainger	Greene
Grundy	-Hamblen	Hancock
Hardin	Haywood	Henderson
Henry	Hickman	Houston
Humphreys	Jackson	-Jefferson
Johnson	Lake	Lauderdale
Lincoln	Macon	Marion
McMinn	McNairy	Meigs
Monroe	Morgan	Obion
Overton	Perry	Pickett
Polk	-Putnam	Rhea
-Roane (incl. Oak Ridge City)	Scott	Sequatchie
Sevier	Stewart	Trousdale
Unicoi	Van Buren	Warren
-Weakley	White	

This will make a total of 56 counties being exempt from the able-bodied requirement due to Labor Surplus Areas. Six additional counties are exempt due to 10 percent unemployment rate under waiver 970084. The 10% counties are Clay, Fentress, Hardeman, Lawrence, Lewis and Wayne.

9. **JUSTIFICATION FOR REQUEST:** As stated in number 8 above, the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities provided additional information on Labor Surplus Areas. This allowed Tennessee to add 7 counties to the existing waiver and to remove the restrictions on Carter and Roane Counties. Based on the information, the above counties are unable to provide sufficient job opportunities on an area basis. Employment prospects for these individuals are greatly diminished and usually the individuals have little or no work history.

9/8-9/77

10. **ANTICIPATED IMPACT ON HOUSEHOLDS AND STATE AGENCY:** The households with able bodied adults without dependents in these counties will benefit through continued eligibility if otherwise eligible. These individuals will be able to continue to receive benefits longer than the five months and a longer time to obtain either employment or training. These individuals will not have what in many instances is their only source of assistance terminated.
11. **CASELOAD INFORMATION:** This waiver modification is adding seven counties to the existing 49 counties covered in the waiver. It is also modifying the county of Carter to include Johnson City and Roane to include Oak Ridge City. This will be a total of 56 counties covered under the Labor Surplus Area exemption. Quality Control will not be impacted, as QC would exempt the counties from the able-bodied requirement.
12. **TIME PERIOD:** Tennessee is requesting the waiver modification of the able-bodied requirement based on Labor Surplus Areas for the counties to remain in affect the duration of the waiver which is through January 31, 2001.
13. **SIGNATURE AND TITLE OF REQUESTING OFFICIAL:**



Ricki O. Rippy, Director
Food Stamp Policy
Tennessee Department of Human Services