



United States Department of Agriculture
Food and Nutrition Service
Southwest Region

JUN 22 2000

Reply to
Attn of: SWFS-309

Subject: Texas ABAWD Waiver Extension Request - 970057

To: Arthur T. Foley, Director
Program Development Division

We are forwarding a request from the Texas Department of Human Services to extend its current waiver 970057. Texas requests this extension so that individuals in 20 counties would be exempt from the work requirements of Section 6(o) of the Food Stamp Act.

The current waiver extension will expire on September 30, 2000. We recommend approval of this waiver extension request to expire on September 30, 2001.

A copy of the Waiver Request Outline is attached. If you need any additional information, please contact our Texas State Desk Manager, Alan Steinshnider at (214) 290-9906 or our Regional Policy Coordinator, Jeannette Morris, at (214) 290-9806.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Esther Phillips", is positioned above the printed name and title.

ESTHER PHILLIPS
Regional Director

Food Stamp Program

Attachment

JUN 06 2000



TEXAS
Department of
Human Services

COMMISSIONER
Eric M. Bost

May 25, 2000

Ms. Esther Phillips, Regional Director
USDA, Food and Consumer Service
1100 Commerce St., Room 5-C-30
Dallas, Texas 75242-1005

Dear Ms. Phillips:

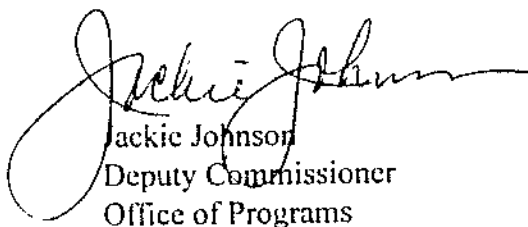
RE: Food Stamp Program - Request for Extension of Waiver (#970057)

The Texas Department of Human Services requests an extension of the existing waiver of section 6(o) of the Food Stamp Act as amended by section 824 of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Act (PRWORA) of 1996 (P.L. 104-193), for the following 20 Texas counties: Cameron, Culberson, Dimmit, Duval, Hidalgo, Jasper, Jim Hogg, Jim Wells, Kinney, Maverick, Newton, Orange, Presidio, Reeves, Starr, Willacy, Ward, Winkler, Zapata, and Zavala.

The current waiver will expire on September 30, 2000. These counties qualify as high unemployment areas under criteria specified in Section 6(o) of the Food Stamp Act as amended by section 824 of the PRWORA, which allows the Secretary to approve state requests for exemption from work requirements for individuals residing in areas with unemployment rates exceeding 10 percent. We request that this extension be for a one-year period beginning October 1, 2000 so as to coincide with the federal fiscal year.

Details are contained in the attached standard-format waiver request. In order to complete computer programming for these changes we need your response by June 30, 2000.

Sincerely,


Jackie Johnson
Deputy Commissioner
Office of Programs

JJ:jld

Attachment

BOARD MEMBERS
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WAIVER REQUEST

1. **Waiver serial number (if request is extension) :** 970057
2. **Type of request :** Extension
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:** Texas
6. **Region:** SWRO
7. **Regulation Requirements:** 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), 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 for 20 hours or more per week; or 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 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:** Texas proposes to exempt from this requirement individuals who reside in counties that have an unemployment rate in excess of 10 percent. Documents provided by the Texas Workforce Commission (Attachment) indicate that the 20 counties listed on Attachment A had unemployment rates exceeding 10 percent for the most recent 3-month or 12-month period for which Texas has available statistics. Each year the State plans to revise the list of waiver counties with an annual effective date of October 1. Approval to request a waiver for additional counties may be requested by the State if circumstances warrant during the year.

9. **Justification for request:** This waiver is requested under provisions of Section 6(o) of the Food Stamp Act as amended by Section 824 of the PRWORA. Approval of this waiver would allow individuals who reside in areas where unemployment rates are over 10 percent the opportunity to participate in the food stamp program without being required to meet unrealistic program work requirements.
10. **Anticipated impact on households and State agency operations:** Approval of this waiver would mitigate the adverse effects experienced by households in economically depressed areas by allowing them to continue receiving basic nutritional sustenance through the Food Stamp Program. In such areas, these households would otherwise be faced with losing such basic support due to circumstances beyond their control since complying with work requirements in such local economic environments may not be a reasonable expectation.
11. **Caseload information, including percent, characteristics, and quality control error rate for affected portion:** In April 2000, a total of 1,351,162 individuals (495,910 households) received food stamps statewide. The 10,332 food stamp recipients in the 20 counties who would be exempted by this waiver comprise about .76 percent of the State's total recipients. The 8,826 households that would be exempted comprise 1.78 percent of the State's Food Stamp households. Attachment A provides caseload data on the affected population for these counties.

There are no applicable quality control error rates to report for this waiver request.

12. **Anticipated implementation date and time period for which waiver is needed:**
The waiver is requested for a one-year period commencing October 1, 2000.
13. **Proposed quality control review procedures:** No special procedures will be necessitated by this waiver.
14. **Signature and title of requesting official:**

Jackie Johnson
Deputy Commissioner
Office of Programs

15. **Date of request:** May 25, 2000

Total Number of Food Stamp
Childless 18-49 Yr Olds
April 2000

County	ABAWD Recipients	ABAWD Households
Cameron	3,160	2,847
Culberson	20	17
Dimmit	20	16
Duval	13	11
Hidalgo	6,406	5,319
Jasper	117	95
Jim Hogg	23	21
Jim Wells	127	111
Kinney	33	30
Maverick	34	29
Newton	34	24
Orange	123	111
Presidio	3	3
Reeves	0	0
Starr	85	70
Willacy	0	0
Ward	93	83
Winkler	1	1
Zapata	25	25
Zavala	15	13
Total	10,332	8,826

Total Counties 20

Attachment A