

TO: Margaret Batko COMPANY:

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From: Name: Glenda Smith
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Fax Notes:

Attached is a copy of Alabama's request to extend (and modify) waiver #970043 to exempt nine counties from the ABAWD requirements due to their unemployment rates exceeding 10 percent. The S/A has attached supporting documentation, therefore, we recommend approval. AI is also requesting a 3-month extension for Crenshaw and Monroe counties to allow for their transition to waiver #970225. These counties no longer have unemployment rates above 10 percent; however, they have been designated as labor surplus areas. In keeping with previous approvals, we recommend that Crenshaw and Monroe be transferred to waiver #970225. If you have any questions, please advise.

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DON SIEGELMAN
Governor

State of Alabama
Department of Human Resources

S. Gordon Persons Building
50 Ripley Street
P.O. Box 304000
Montgomery, Alabama 36130-4000
(334) 242-1310
www.dhr.state.al.us
November 30, 2000



Bill Fuller
Commissioner

Gilbert Camacho, Regional Director
Food Stamp Program
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Food and Nutrition Service
61 Forsyth Street, Suite 8T36
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

Dear Mr. Camacho:

Attached please find our request to extend Waiver #970043, to exempt nine Alabama counties from the provision of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 which limits eligibility for certain able-bodied adults who are not working or participating in a work or training program or workfare. This waiver extension is requested because these counties continue to experience unemployment rates in excess of 10%.

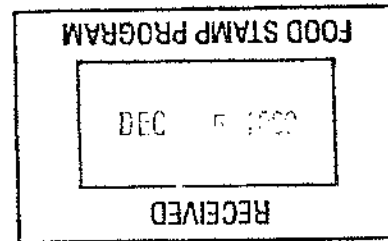
Please contact Mary Lois Monroe at (334)242-1747 if additional information is needed.

Sincerely,

Caro K. Shanahan, Director
Food Stamp Partnership

CKS/mlm

Enclosure



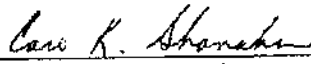
WAIVER REQUEST

1. **Waiver serial number:** 970043
2. **Type of request:** Extension
3. **Primary regulation citation:** Section 6(o)(2) of the Food Stamp Act of 1977, as amended by Section 824 of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996.
4. **Secondary regulation citation:** None
5. **State:** Alabama
6. **Region:** Southeast
7. **Regulatory requirements:** The Food Stamp Act, as amended, provides for a waiver to the work requirements of the above section, for groups of individuals residing in areas that have an unemployment rate of over 10%. The State of Alabama is requesting an extension to our waiver for food stamp recipients residing in the following nine counties: Butler, Dallas, Greene, Lowndes, Perry, Pickens, Sumter, Washington and Wilcox. In addition, we are requesting a three-month extension of our existing waiver for Crenshaw and Monroe counties which have experienced a slight drop in their unemployment rates this year. Both Crenshaw and Monroe counties are designated labor surplus areas for FY 2001 and it is anticipated that they will be approved for a waiver for the coming year based on this criteria. Approval of this three-month extension will allow time for us to transition Crenshaw and Monroe counties from this waiver to Waiver #970225.
8. **Justification for request:** Attachment I provides the monthly unemployment rates for the above listed counties for FY 2000. All nine counties have unemployment rates in excess of 10% when averaged for the entire fiscal year. The information is based on the unemployment rates as determined and reported by the Alabama Department of Industrial Relations for each month.
9. **Anticipated impact on households and State agency operations:** With the approval of this waiver extension, food stamp recipients residing in the above counties will not be subject to the specified work requirement provisions of the Food Stamp Act, as amended.
10. **Caseload information:** This information is not currently available.

11. **Anticipated implementation date and time period for which waiver is needed:** If approved, this waiver will continue to exempt food stamp recipients from the ABAWD work requirements in these nine counties. This waiver extension is requested for one year. Additionally, we are requesting a continuance of our current waiver for three months for Crenshaw and Monroe counties to expire on March 31, 2001.

12. **Proposed quality control review procedures:** Households for which the waiver is approved will not be subject to the quality control review procedures related to the specified work requirements.

13. **Signature and title
of requesting official:**


Caro K. Shanahan, Director
Food Stamp Partnership
Alabama Department of Human Resources

14. **Date of request:** November 30, 2000

Attachment I

ALABAMA COUNTIES-Unemployment Rates in Excess of 10% in FY 2000

COUNTY	Oct-99	Nov-99	Dec-99	Jan-00	Feb-00	Mar-00	Apr-00	May-00	Jun-00	Jul-00	Aug-00	Sep-00	Avg
Butler	10.3	13.2	12.2	13.2	12.6	10.5	10.4	9.8	10.8	11.7	13.4	11.0	12.1
Dallas	11.7	9.9	10.0	11.6	11.2	9.0	9.2	9.4	12.2	10.7	11.7	10.0	10.6
Greene	10.9	9.8	10.3	11.6	12.1	8.7	8.5	8.5	11.5	10.0	11.3	10.7	10.3
Lowndes	14.2	11.1	10.4	12.9	12.5	10.6	10.6	10.6	13.0	12.4	11.5	11.4	11.8
Perry	11.5	9.1	9.2	10.8	11.9	9.0	9.7	10.4	12.3	10.3	10.7	10.5	10.5
Pickens	10.6	9.5	10.5	10.6	9.9	7.8	8.7	9.7	13.3	11.4	12.2	10.7	10.4
Sumter	11.2	9.7	9.0	11.0	12.2	10.8	12.9	13.5	15.6	13.6	15.0	12.3	12.2
Washington	10.2	9.2	9.0	10.9	10.9	9.0	10.8	12.2	13.4	12.2	12.7	10.8	10.9
Wilcox	14.4	13.0	12.3	13.2	12.0	9.9	10.9	11.3	12.1	10.5	12.6	11.2	12.0