



CPB

United States Department of Agriculture
Food and Nutrition Service

FEB 07 2001

Southwest Region

Reply to
Attn of: SWFS-300

Subject: Arkansas Department of Human Services (ADHS) Waiver 980013 - Able-Bodied Adult
Without Dependents (ABAWD)

To:
Art Foley, Director
Program Development Division

Attached is a copy of a waiver extension request from ADHS which would grant the State permission to waive the employment and training (E&T) work requirement for ABAWD in areas classified by the Department of Labor surplus, and in areas where unemployment rates are at least 20% above the national average. We recommend that this waiver be approved. Our recommendation is based on the fact that waiving E&T work requirements in these areas could help increase program participation in areas where it is unlikely that ABAWDs would be able to find jobs.

If you have any questions, please contact Anne Snell at (214) 290-9900.


ESTHER PHILLIPS
Regional Director
Foods Stamp Program

Attachment



Arkansas Department of Human Services

Division of County Operations

Donaghey Plaza South
P.O. Box 1437 Slot 1220
Little Rock, Arkansas 72203-1437
TDD (501) 682-8275

January 5, 2001

Ms. Esther Phillips, Regional Director, Food Stamp Program
U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service
1100 Commerce Street, Room 5-C-30
Dallas, Texas 75242-1005

SUBJ: Food Stamp Program - Waiver Extension Request 980013

Dear Ms. Phillips:

Attached is a request to extend waiver number 980013 which grants the State permission to waive the work requirement for able-bodied adults without dependent children (ABAWDs) in areas classified by the Department of Labor as labor surplus areas. We are also asking to waive the work requirement for ABAWDs living in areas where unemployment rates are at least 20% over the national average.

If you have questions or need additional information about this waiver request, please contact Georgia Gilkey, Manager, Food Stamp Program.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Sandra Miller
Assistant Director
Office of Program Planning and Development

SM:GG/bh

Attachment

cc: Georgia Gilkey, Manager, Food Stamp Program
file

WAIVER REQUEST

Date of Request: January 4, 2001

Type of Request: Extension

Waiver Number: 980013

State: Arkansas

Region: Southwest

Regulatory Citation: Section 6(o) of the Food Stamp Act as amended by Section 824 of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (P.L. 104-193) commonly known as PRWORA.

Regulatory Requirements: Under Section 824 of PRWORA, any able-bodied, non-exempt individual between the ages of 18 and 50 shall be ineligible to participate in the Food Stamp Program as a member of any household if, during a designated thirty-six month period, the individual received food stamp benefits for any three months during which he or she did not work for 20 hours or more per week or participate in and comply with a work program as defined under PRWORA. This is commonly known as the ABAWD requirement.

Proposed Alternative Procedures: Arkansas proposes to exempt from this requirement individuals who live in areas identified as labor surplus by the Assistant Secretary of Labor for the period October 1, 2000 through September 30, 2001, under P.L. 96-302.

In Arkansas, the labor surplus areas for the period October 1, 2000 through September 30, 2001 are:

	1. Ashley County	2. Boone County
3. Bradley County	4. Calhoun County	5. Chicot County
6. Clay County	7. Cleveland County	8. Columbia County
9. Conway County	10. Cross County	11. Dallas County
12. Desha County	13. Drew County	14. Hempstead County
15. Jackson County	16. Jefferson County	17. Lafayette County
18. Lawrence County	19. Lee County	20. Lincoln County
21. Little River County	22. Mississippi County	23. Monroe County
24. Nevada County	25. Newton County	26. Ouachita County
27. Perry County	28. Phillips County	29. Poinsett County
30. Prairie County	31. Randolph County	32. Searcy County
33. St Francis County	34. Union County	35. Van Buren County
36. Woodruff County		

Waiver Extension Request 980013

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Arkansas also proposes to exempt from this requirement areas with an average unemployment rate at least one-fifth above the nation. The following table indicates the counties for which a waiver is sought and the unemployment rates for those counties.

The following codes are used to indicate the basis under which the area may qualify for a waiver:

- C** Indicates that the area had an unemployment rate of more than 20 percent above the national average for the calendar years 1998 and 1999.
- F** Indicates that the area had a unemployment rate of more than 20 percent above the national average for federal fiscal years 1999 and 2000.
- CF** Indicates that the area would qualify for a waiver under data from either of these two twenty-four month periods.

AREA	Unemployment Rate Calendar Year 1998-1999	Unemployment Rate Fiscal Year 1999-2000	Basis Under Which Area May Qualify for a Waiver
1. Arkansas County	5.5%	5.1%	CF
2. Greene County	5.2%	4.9%	C
3. Hot Spring County	5.2%	4.6%	C
4. City of Hot Springs	5.9%	5.3%	CF
5. Howard County	5.6%	5.1%	CF
6. Izard County	5.6%	4.5%	C
7. City of Jacksonville	5.9%	5.4%	CF
8. Logan County	5.8%	4.9%	C
9. Sharp County	5.6%	5.4%	CF

The information used to compile this waiver request was provided by the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, 820 First Street, NE, Suite 510, Washington, DC 20002. A copy of the pertinent parts of the document is attached.

Justification: This waiver is requested under Section 824(a) of P.L. 104-193, which gives the Secretary the authority to grant a waiver of 7 U.S.C. 2015(o)(4).

Anticipated Impact On:

- A. Households:** Extension of this waiver will allow individuals living in economically deprived areas to continue participating in the Food Stamp Program. Food assistance is a basic human need that should not be reduced or terminated if certain household members, through no fault of their own, cannot locate gainful employment.

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B. State Agency Operations: Extension of this waiver will provide for more efficient operation of the Food Stamp Program by allowing the State to use its 2001 allocation of ABAWD exemptions in the remainder of the State.

Caseload Information: As of October 2000, our caseload was 99,694 cases. In the counties for which the waivers are requested, our caseload was 52,140 cases. This is 52.3% of our total caseload.

Anticipated Implementation Date: We would like to implement this waiver upon its approval.

Time Period for Which Waiver is Needed: We request that this waiver be approved indefinitely with the State submitting an annual list of counties for which a new waiver is being requested.

Proposed Quality Control Review Procedures: No special QC procedures are indicated.

LABOR SURPLUS AREAS
OCTOBER 1, 2000 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2001

ELIGIBLE LABOR SURPLUS AREAS

CIVIL JURISDICTIONS INCLUDED

ARIZONA (CONTD)

BALANCE OF YUMA COUNTY

**YUMA COUNTY LESS
YUMA CITY**

ARKANSAS

**ASHLEY COUNTY
BOONE COUNTY
BRADLEY COUNTY
CALHOUN COUNTY
CHICOT COUNTY
CLAY COUNTY
CLEVELAND COUNTY
COLUMBIA COUNTY
CONWAY COUNTY
CROSS COUNTY
DALLAS COUNTY
DESHA COUNTY
DREW COUNTY
HEMPSTEAD COUNTY
JACKSON COUNTY
BALANCE OF JEFFERSON COUNTY**

**LAFAYETTE COUNTY
LAWRENCE COUNTY
LEE COUNTY
LINCOLN COUNTY
LITTLE RIVER COUNTY
MISSISSIPPI COUNTY
MONROE COUNTY
NEVADA COUNTY
NEWTON COUNTY
OUACHITA COUNTY
PERRY COUNTY
PHILLIPS COUNTY
PINE BLUFF CITY**

**POINSETT COUNTY
PRAIRIE COUNTY
RANDOLPH COUNTY
SEARCY COUNTY**

(CONTINUED)

**ASHLEY COUNTY
BOONE COUNTY
BRADLEY COUNTY
CALHOUN COUNTY
CHICOT COUNTY
CLAY COUNTY
CLEVELAND COUNTY
COLUMBIA COUNTY
CONWAY COUNTY
CROSS COUNTY
DALLAS COUNTY
DESHA COUNTY
DREW COUNTY
HEMPSTEAD COUNTY
JACKSON COUNTY
JEFFERSON COUNTY LESS
PINE BLUFF CITY
LAFAYETTE COUNTY
LAWRENCE COUNTY
LEE COUNTY
LINCOLN COUNTY
LITTLE RIVER COUNTY
MISSISSIPPI COUNTY
MONROE COUNTY
NEVADA COUNTY
NEWTON COUNTY
OUACHITA COUNTY
PERRY COUNTY
PHILLIPS COUNTY
PINE BLUFF CITY IN
JEFFERSON COUNTY
POINSETT COUNTY
PRAIRIE COUNTY
RANDOLPH COUNTY
SEARCY COUNTY**

LABOR SURPLUS AREAS
OCTOBER 1, 2000 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2001

ELIGIBLE LABOR SURPLUS AREAS

ARKANSAS (CONTD)

ST. FRANCIS COUNTY
UNION COUNTY
VAN BUREN COUNTY
WOODRUFF COUNTY

CALIFORNIA

ALPINE COUNTY
AZUSA CITY

BAKERSFIELD CITY

BALDWIN PARK CITY

BANNING CITY

BELL CITY

BELL GARDENS CITY

BALANCE OF BUTTE COUNTY

CALAVERAS COUNTY
CALEXICO CITY

CARSON CITY

CERES CITY

CHICO CITY

CLOVIS CITY

COLTON CITY

COLUSA COUNTY
COMPTON CITY

DEL NORTE COUNTY
(CONTINUED)

CIVIL JURISDICTIONS INCLUDED

ST. FRANCIS COUNTY
UNION COUNTY
VAN BUREN COUNTY
WOODRUFF COUNTY

ALPINE COUNTY
AZUSA CITY IN
LOS ANGELES COUNTY
BAKERSFIELD CITY IN
KERN COUNTY
BALDWIN PARK CITY IN
LOS ANGELES COUNTY
BANNING CITY IN
RIVERSIDE COUNTY
BELL CITY IN
LOS ANGELES COUNTY
BELL GARDENS CITY IN
LOS ANGELES COUNTY
BUTTE COUNTY LESS
CHICO CITY
PARADISE CITY
CALAVERAS COUNTY
CALEXICO CITY IN
IMPERIAL COUNTY
CARSON CITY IN
LOS ANGELES COUNTY
CERES CITY IN
STANISLAUS COUNTY
CHICO CITY IN
BUTTE COUNTY
CLOVIS CITY IN
FRESNO COUNTY
COLTON CITY IN
SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY
COLUSA COUNTY
COMPTON CITY IN
LOS ANGELES COUNTY
DEL NORTE COUNTY

ARKANSAS AREAS WITH UNEMPLOYMENT 20% OVER THE NATIONAL AVERAGE

AREA	Unemployment Rate CY 1998-1999	Unemployment Rate FY 1999-2000	Periods 20% over national average
ARKANSAS COUNTY, AR ✓	5.5%	5.1%	CF
ASHLEY COUNTY, AR ✓	8.7%	7.8%	CF
BOONE-SEARCY-NEWTON, AR LMA	6.8%	5.6%	CF
BOONE COUNTY, AR ✓	6.5%	5.3%	CF
BRADLEY COUNTY, AR ✓	10.5%	8.8%	CF
CALHOUN COUNTY, AR ✓	10.0%	9.0%	CF
CHICOT COUNTY, AR ✓	9.3%	9.1%	CF
CLAY COUNTY, AR ✓	6.6%	6.3%	CF
CLEVELAND COUNTY, AR ✓	6.0%	5.4%	CF
COLUMBIA COUNTY, AR ✓	6.9%	6.1%	CF
CONWAY COUNTY, AR ✓	6.0%	7.3%	CF
CROSS COUNTY, AR ✓	7.1%	6.3%	CF
DALLAS COUNTY, AR ✓	7.9%	7.9%	CF
DESHA COUNTY, AR ✓	9.7%	10.1%	CF
DREW COUNTY, AR ✓	8.1%	6.8%	CF
EL DORADO CITY, AR ✓	7.1%	6.2%	CF
GREENE COUNTY, AR ✓	5.2%	4.9%	C
HEMPSTEAD-NEVADA, AR LMA	6.7%	5.7%	CF
HEMPSTEAD COUNTY, AR ✓	6.7%	5.6%	CF
HOT SPRING COUNTY, AR ✓	5.2%	4.6%	C
HOT SPRINGS CITY, AR ✓	5.9%	5.3%	CF
HOWARD-PIKE, AR LMA	5.3%	5.0%	CF
HOWARD COUNTY, AR ✓	5.6%	5.1%	CF
INDEPENDENCE-SHARP, AR LMA	5.2%	5.0%	CF
IZARD COUNTY, AR ✓	5.6%	4.5%	C
JACKSON COUNTY, AR ✓	10.2%	9.7%	CF
JACKSONVILLE CITY, AR ✓	5.9%	5.4%	CF
JEFFERSON COUNTY, AR ✓	8.2%	7.4%	CF
LAFAYETTE COUNTY, AR ✓	7.8%	7.5%	CF
LAWRENCE COUNTY, AR ✓	7.5%	6.7%	CF
LEE COUNTY, AR ✓	8.7%	7.7%	CF
LINCOLN COUNTY, AR ✓	6.3%	5.1%	CF
LITTLE RIVER COUNTY, AR ✓	6.4%	5.8%	CF
LOGAN COUNTY, AR ✓	5.8%	4.9%	C
MISSISSIPPI COUNTY, AR ✓	11.4%	10.6%	CF
MONROE COUNTY, AR ✓	7.6%	6.6%	CF
NEVADA COUNTY, AR ✓	6.9%	5.9%	CF
NEWTON COUNTY, AR ✓	7.0%	5.8%	CF
OUACHITA-DALLAS-CALHOUN, AR LMA	9.5%	8.6%	CF
OUACHITA COUNTY, AR ✓	9.9%	8.8%	CF
PERRY COUNTY, AR ✓	6.9%	6.6%	CF
PHILLIPS COUNTY, AR ✓	8.6%	7.9%	CF
PINE BLUFF CITY, AR ✓	9.2%	8.3%	CF
POINSETT COUNTY, AR ✓	7.1%	5.9%	CF
PRAIRIE COUNTY, AR ✓	6.8%	5.6%	CF
RANDOLPH COUNTY, AR ✓	8.7%	6.8%	CF
SEARCY COUNTY, AR ✓	8.1%	7.0%	CF

ARKANSAS AREAS WITH UNEMPLOYMENT 20% OVER THE NATIONAL AVERAGE

AREA	Unemployment Rate CY 1998-1999	Unemployment Rate FY 1999-2000	Periods 20% over national average
SHARP COUNTY, AR ✓	5.6%	5.4%	CF
ST FRANCIS COUNTY, AR ✓	9.4%	8.8%	CF
UNION COUNTY, AR ✓	6.5%	5.7%	CF
VAN BUREN COUNTY, AR ✓	7.1%	5.8%	CF
WOODRUFF COUNTY, AR ✓	11.0%	10.1%	CF

PL 111-111 100-111-111

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE BY COUNTY 1998-1999

100%
90%
80%
70%
60%
50%
40%
30%
20%
10%
0%

PL 111-111 100-111-111

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE BY COUNTY 1999-2000

100%
90%
80%
70%
60%
50%
40%
30%
20%
10%
0%

PL 111-111 100-111-111

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE BY COUNTY 1998-1999