

FSP
w/it



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

Patricia A. Wilson-Coker, JD, MSW
COMMISSIONER

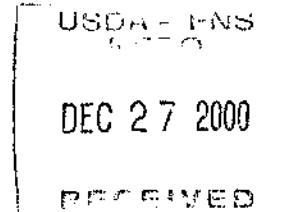
December 7, 2000

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Frances E. Zorn
Northeast Regional Administrator
USDA Food and Nutrition Service
10 Causeway Street, Room #501
Boston, MA 02222



Dear Ms. Zorn:

We hereby request a waiver of the Food Stamp Program's work requirement for able-bodied adults with no dependents for calendar year 2001, for the following four Connecticut towns, based on their designation by the Department of Labor as Labor Surplus Areas:

Bridgeport
Hartford
Killingly
Voluntown

Thank you for your attention to this request and for your support for Food Stamp recipients subject to the PRWORA eligibility restrictions. If you have any questions, please contact William Ruffleth at (860) 424-5381.

Sincerely,

Patricia A. Wilson-Coker
Commissioner

PAWC:MP

Waiver Request

1. **Waiver serial number:**
2. **Type of request:** Extension and 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:** Connecticut
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 3 month (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 (PRWORA), P.L. 104-193, 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. **Description of proposed alternative procedures:** Under current waiver #970304, the Connecticut State Agency is proposing to extend the

exemption from this requirement to individuals residing in the following cities and towns which have been designated as Labor Surplus Areas (LSAs) by the Employment and Training Administration (ETA) of the Department of Labor: Hartford, Bridgeport, Killingly and Voluntown.

Approval of this waiver would allow individuals who reside in those areas 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 requirement son those household most likely to benefit.

9. Action and reason for approval or denial:
10. Regulatory or legislative basis for action:

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

ELIGIBLE LABOR SURPLUS AREAS

CIVIL JURISDICTIONS INCLUDED

COLORADO

ALAMOSA COUNTY
CONEJOS COUNTY
COSTILLA COUNTY
DOLORES COUNTY
HUERFANO COUNTY
PUEBLO CITY

RIO GRANDE COUNTY
SAGUACHE COUNTY
SAN JUAN COUNTY

CONNECTICUT

BRIDGEPORT CITY
HARTFORD CITY
KILLINGLY TOWN
VOLUNTOWN TOWN

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

WASHINGTON DC CITY

FLORIDA

CALHOUN COUNTY
DE SOTO COUNTY
DELRAY BEACH CITY

FORT PIERCE CITY

GLADES COUNTY
GULF COUNTY
HAMILTON COUNTY
HARDEE COUNTY
HENDRY COUNTY

(CONTINUED)

ALAMOSA COUNTY
CONEJOS COUNTY
COSTILLA COUNTY
DOLORES COUNTY
HUERFANO COUNTY
PUEBLO CITY IN
PUEBLO COUNTY
RIO GRANDE COUNTY
SAGUACHE COUNTY
SAN JUAN COUNTY

BRIDGEPORT CITY
HARTFORD CITY
KILLINGLY TOWN
VOLUNTOWN TOWN

WASHINGTON DC CITY IN
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

CALHOUN COUNTY
DE SOTO COUNTY
DELRAY BEACH CITY IN
PALM BEACH COUNTY
FORT PIERCE CITY IN
ST. LUCIE COUNTY
GLADES COUNTY
GULF COUNTY
HAMILTON COUNTY
HARDEE COUNTY
HENDRY COUNTY