



United States Department of Agriculture
Food and Nutrition Service

Northeast Region

Date: 11/12/00

Subject: ME Request to Extend Waiver #970315

To: Art Foley, Director
PDD, Room 720

Maine is requesting an extension of Waiver #970315, to continue to exempt residents of Gardiner, Sanford, Dexter-Pittsfield, Lincoln-Howland, Outer Bangor, Millinocket-East Millinocket, Patten-Island Falls from the work requirements of Section 6(o) of the Food Stamp Act, as amended by Section 824 of the Personal Responsibility and Work opportunity and Reconciliation Act of 1996 (PRWORA).

We recommend approval of this waiver based on the insufficient jobs for individuals subject to Section 6(o) of the Act as documented by unemployment rates in the requested areas of more than 20 percent above the national average for the preceding 24 months. Please note that Waterville Labor Market Area has been removed from the waiver request as its unemployment rate no longer exceeds the national average by 20% for the required time period.

The subject waiver is due to expire November 30, 2000, and Maine is requesting a one-year extension.

If you have any questions regarding this waiver request, please do not hesitate to contact Laurie Hurd at (617) 565-6374.

Mary A. Ferris, Chief
State Program Improvement Section
Food Stamp Program
Northeast Region

*Approved and Forwarded
Laurie Hurd*

Attachment



STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
10 STATE HOUSE STAYERS
ALBANY, MAINE 05209
(207) 551-2100

ANGUS E. KNIGHT

KEVIN W. CONCANNON

COMMISSIONER

October 18, 2000

Robert L. Canavan
Food Stamp Director
Food & Nutrition Services
NERO
10 Causeway Street
Boston, MA 02222

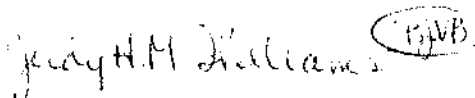
Dear Mr. Canavan:

Please find the enclosed request of extension for waiver #970315. This waiver allowed residents of designated areas in Maine to be exempt from time limited accessibility to the food stamp program as described at Section 824 of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act. We have removed the Waterville Labor Market Area from this waiver request as its unemployment rate does not exceed the national average by 20% for the preceding 24 months.

The unemployment rates for the other areas exceed the national average rate by more than 20 per cent.

Thank you for any assistance you may provide. If you have any questions, please contact Rick Morrow at (207) 287-5093.

Sincerely,

 (BVB)

Judy H.M. Williams, Director
Bureau of Family Independence



WAIVER REQUEST OUTLINE

1. **Waiver serial number (if request is extension):**
970315

2. **Type of request:**
Extension

3. **Primary regulation citation, if any:**
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, if any:**

5. **State:** Maine

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 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 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 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. **Proposed alternative procedures:**

The State of Maine is requesting to extend its waiver of the requirements of Section 824 of the PRWORA on the basis of insufficient jobs for the residents of the municipalities of Gardiner and Sanford and also of the following LMAs: Dexter-Pittsfield, Lincoln-Howland, Outer Bangor, Millinocket-East Millinocket, and Patten-Island Falls.

9. Justification for request:

The national average unemployment rate for the period of August 1998 through July 2000 was 4.2. The average unemployment rate for the areas covered in this waiver exceeds 1.20 percent of the national average.

10. Anticipated impact on households and State agency operations:

This waiver will provide consistency for households and State agency operations in areas where unemployment remains higher than the national average.

11. Caseload information, including percent, characteristics, and quality control error rate for affected portion:

The caseload for these areas represent 10% of the caseload for the state. There are no quality control procedures involved.

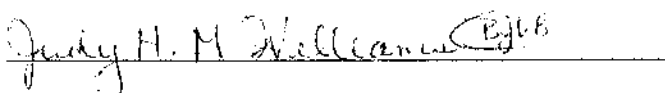
12. Anticipated implementation date and time period for which waiver is needed:

This waiver currently has an expiration date of November 30, 2000. We request a one-year extension.

13. Proposed quality control review procedures:

There are no special quality control procedures needed in conjunction with this waiver.

14. Signature and title of requesting official:

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Judy H.M. Williams", followed by a horizontal line. To the right of the signature, the initials "BJL" are handwritten.

Judy H.M. Williams, Director
Bureau of Family Independence

15. Date of request:

October 18, 2000

National average unemployment rate for August 1998 through July 2000 was 4.2.

$$4.2 \times 1.20 = 5.04$$

Average unemployment rates for the same time period for the following areas are:

Gardiner	6.58
Sanford	5.14
Dexter-Pittsfield	7.69
Lincoln-Howland	6.48
Outer Bangor	5.43
Millinocket-East Millinocket	6.74
Patten-Island Falls	8.75

Copies of unemployment rate statistics for these areas for the appropriate time period, as provided by the Maine Department of Labor, are attached.