



BOB HOLDEN
GOVERNOR

MISSOURI
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
DIVISION OF FAMILY SERVICES
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May 2, 2001

Allan C. Nickels
Regional Director
Food Stamp Program
USDA Food and Nutrition Service
Mountain Plains Region
1244 Speer Boulevard
Denver, Colorado 80204-3585

Dear Mr. Nickels:

Section 6 (0) (2) of the Food Stamp Act, as amended by Section 824 of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act (PRWORA), Public Law 104-193, allows the Secretary to grant to the state a waiver of the three-month food stamp eligibility restriction for certain able-bodied adults without dependents age 18 to 50.

Missouri previously requested and was granted a waiver for counties identified as meeting the definition of labor surplus areas by the United States Department of Labor (DOL), Employment and Training Administration (ETA) in the November 15, 2000, Federal Register.

We understand the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) is approving waivers for areas not listed as labor surplus areas on DOL's list but who have an unemployment rate in excess of 20% of the national average for a recent 24-month period no earlier than the same period used by ETA. This criteria is also outlined in the February 17, 2001, Federal Register and becomes effective June 1, 2001.

Allan C. Nickels

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We are attaching documentation from the BLS to support our request to waive ten additional counties meeting the criteria outlined.

If you have any questions, please contact Jody Cornwell at 573-751-3178 or by e-mail at jcornwel@mail.state.mo.us.

Sincerely,

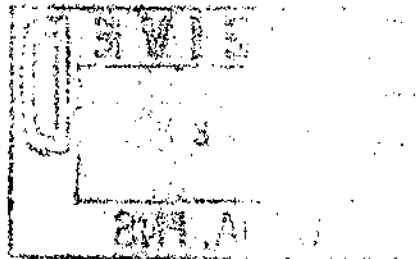


Denise Cross

Director

DC/JW/em

Attachment



STATE AGENCY: Ms. Janel R. Luck, IM Deputy Director
Missouri Division of Family Services
PO Box 88
Jefferson City, Missouri 65103
(573) 751-3124

AREAS COVERED BY THE REQUEST:

Carter County
Clark County
Crawford County
Dunklin County
Miller County
Montgomery County
Ozark County
Reynolds County
Shannon County
Shelby County

See attached Bureau of Labor Statistics Data listing unemployment statistics for calendar years 1998 through 2000.

CATEGORY UNDER WHICH WAIVER IS BEING REQUESTED:

Request due to lack of sufficient jobs i.e.: Areas with unemployment rates that exceed 20% of the national average in a recent 24-month period.

DURATION OF WAIVER: May 1, 2001 through February 28, 2002.

BASIS FOR REQUEST: Recent guidance from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) indicates that areas not identified as labor surplus areas by the DOL may be eligible for waiver requests if those areas have an unemployment rate in excess of 20% of the national average for a recent 24-month period. Data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics attached to this request supports the identification of ten additional counties who meet the waiver criteria.