



*For Link
2/23/01*

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE
P.O. BOX 2675
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 17105-2675

Feather O. Houstoun
Secretary

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FEB 28 2001

Mr. Joseph Weingart
Regional Director
United States Department of Agriculture
Food and Nutrition Service
Mid-Atlantic Region
Mercer Corporate Park
300 Corporate Boulevard
Robbinsville, New Jersey 08691-1598

Dear Mr. Weingart:

I am requesting an extension of Pennsylvania's current waiver (980063) of the work requirement, set forth in Section 824 of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (PRWORA), that amends Section 6 of the Food Stamp Act of 1977 (7U.S.C. 2015). Specifically, I am requesting that the following counties: Armstrong, Bedford, Cambria, Cameron, Carbon, Clearfield, Clinton, Elk, Fayette, Forest, Greene, Huntingdon, Indiana, Jefferson, Juniata, Luzerne, Mifflin, Monroe, Philadelphia, Potter, Schuylkill, Somerset, Sullivan, Wayne, and Wyoming and the cities of Chester, McKeesport, and Williamsport, which are currently waived, be extended through May 31, 2002. Further, I am requesting that the additional cities of Hazleton, Johnstown, New Castle, and Wilkes-Barre be waived through May 31, 2002. These current counties and additional cities are identified in the attachment as Labor Surplus Areas (LSAs) and on the www.doleta.gov/whatsnew/laborsurplus.pdf website. In the LSAs, it is reasonable to expect that food stamp clients will not be able to obtain employment within the three months allowed to meet the work requirements. Our current waiver request was based on an October 1999 LSA listing of the designated areas in the State.

As you know, Section 824 of PRWORA of 1996 amends Section 6 of the Food Stamp Act of 1977 (7U.S.C. 2015). The work requirement established by this section requires individuals to work an average of 20 hours per week to maintain eligibility for food stamps. If not engaged in a work activity, the food stamp benefits are limited to 3 months out of 36. Section (o) (4) permits a state to request a waiver of the application of the work requirement for any group of individuals in the state who reside in an area, which has an unemployment rate of over 10 percent or does not have a sufficient number of jobs available for individuals.

Thank you for your consideration of this waiver request.

Sincerely,

Feather O. Houstoun

Attachment

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

ELIGIBLE LABOR SURPLUS AREAS

CIVIL JURISDICTIONS INCLUDED

PENNSYLVANIA (CONT'D)

CHESTER CITY	CHESTER CITY IN DELAWARE COUNTY
CLEARFIELD COUNTY	CLEARFIELD COUNTY
CLINTON COUNTY	CLINTON COUNTY
ELK COUNTY	ELK COUNTY
FAYETTE COUNTY	FAYETTE COUNTY
FOREST COUNTY	FOREST COUNTY
GREENE COUNTY	GREENE COUNTY
HAZLETON CITY	HAZLETON CITY IN LUZERNE COUNTY
HUNTINGDON COUNTY	HUNTINGDON COUNTY
INDIANA COUNTY	INDIANA COUNTY
JEFFERSON COUNTY	JEFFERSON COUNTY
JOHNSTOWN CITY	JOHNSTOWN CITY IN CAMBRIA COUNTY
JUNIATA COUNTY	JUNIATA COUNTY
BALANCE OF LUZERNE COUNTY	LUZERNE COUNTY LESS HAZLETON CITY
MCKEESPORT CITY	WILKES-BARRE CITY MCKEESPORT CITY IN ALLEGHENY COUNTY
MIFFLIN COUNTY	MIFFLIN COUNTY
MONROE COUNTY	MONROE COUNTY
NEW CASTLE CITY	NEW CASTLE CITY IN LAWRENCE COUNTY
PHILADELPHIA CITY	PHILADELPHIA CITY IN PHILADELPHIA COUNTY
POTTER COUNTY	POTTER COUNTY
SCHUYLKILL COUNTY	SCHUYLKILL COUNTY
SOMERSET COUNTY	SOMERSET COUNTY
SULLIVAN COUNTY	SULLIVAN COUNTY
WAYNE COUNTY	WAYNE COUNTY
WILKES-BARRE CITY	WILKES-BARRE CITY IN LUZERNE COUNTY
WILLIAMSPORT CITY	WILLIAMSPORT CITY IN LYCOMING COUNTY
WYOMING COUNTY	WYOMING COUNTY

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

ELIGIBLE LABOR SURPLUS AREAS

CIVIL JURISDICTIONS INCLUDED

OREGON (CONT'D)

CROOK COUNTY
CURRY COUNTY
BALANCE OF DESCHUTES COUNTY

DOUGLAS COUNTY
GRANT COUNTY
HARNEY COUNTY
HOOD RIVER COUNTY
BALANCE OF JACKSON COUNTY

JEFFERSON COUNTY
JOSEPHINE COUNTY
KLAMATH COUNTY
LAKE COUNTY
LINCOLN COUNTY
BALANCE OF LINN COUNTY

MALHEUR COUNTY
MEDFORD CITY

MORROW COUNTY
SALEM CITY

SPRINGFIELD CITY

UMATILLA COUNTY
UNION COUNTY
WALLOWA COUNTY
WASCO COUNTY
WHEELER COUNTY

CROOK COUNTY
CURRY COUNTY
DESCHUTES COUNTY LESS
BEND CITY
DOUGLAS COUNTY
GRANT COUNTY
HARNEY COUNTY
HOOD RIVER COUNTY
JACKSON COUNTY LESS
MEDFORD CITY
JEFFERSON COUNTY
JOSEPHINE COUNTY
KLAMATH COUNTY
LAKE COUNTY
LINCOLN COUNTY
LINN COUNTY LESS
ALBANY CITY
MALHEUR COUNTY
MEDFORD CITY IN
JACKSON COUNTY
MORROW COUNTY
SALEM CITY IN
MARION COUNTY
POLK COUNTY
SPRINGFIELD CITY IN
LANE COUNTY
UMATILLA COUNTY
UNION COUNTY
WALLOWA COUNTY
WASCO COUNTY
WHEELER COUNTY

PENNSYLVANIA

ARMSTRONG COUNTY
BEDFORD COUNTY
BALANCE OF CAMBRIA COUNTY

CAMERON COUNTY
CARBON COUNTY
(CONTINUED)

ARMSTRONG COUNTY
BEDFORD COUNTY
CAMBRIA COUNTY LESS
JOHNSTOWN CITY
CAMERON COUNTY
CARBON COUNTY