



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

JUL - 1 2000

Mr. Joseph Weingart
Regional Director, Food Stamp Program
USDA Mid-Atlantic Region
Mercer Corporate Park
300 Corporate Boulevard
Robbinsville, NJ 08691-1598

Dear Mr. Weingart:

I am writing to request an extension of Waiver 970283. This waiver allows residents in certain Virginia localities to be exempt from the time-limited benefits required with the work requirement for the able-bodied population. We request the waiver extension to be effective July 1, 2000, for these labor surplus areas.

Please find the waiver request and data from the Virginia Employment Commission enclosed to support the waiver request. Please contact Pat Duva, Food Stamp Program Manager at (804) 692-1712, if you need additional information.

Sincerely,

Jean K. Sheil
Deputy Commissioner
Program Operations

Enclosure

Waiver Request

1. **Waiver serial number:** 970283
2. **Type of request:** Extension
3. **Primary regulation citation:** Section 6(o) of the Food Stamp Act, as amended by Section 824 of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Act (PRWORA) of 1996, P. L. 104-193.
4. **Secondary regulation citation:**
5. **State:** Virginia
6. **Region:** Mid-Atlantic
7. **Regulatory requirements:** Section 6(o) of the Food Stamp Act, as amended by PRWORA, provides that a household member may not receive food stamp benefits beyond a three-month period within a 36-month period unless the member is employed or participating in work programs or workfare. There are exceptions allowed by the Act to the time-limited benefits.

Section 6(o) of the Food Stamp Act also provides that the Secretary may waive the applicability of the work requirement for any areas with unemployment rates of 10 percent or higher or one with a surplus of available laborers, if such a request is made by a state agency.

Regulations at 273 24(f) codify the authority for states to request waivers from the work requirement and for the Food and Nutrition Service to grant waivers.

8. **Proposed alternative procedures:** The Virginia State Agency requests an extension of its original waiver for food stamp recipients who reside in areas that do not have a sufficient number of jobs to provide employment for individuals subject to Section 824 of PRWORA.

This waiver would allow an exemption from the requirement for individuals who reside in areas that the U.S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration designated as Labor Surplus Areas.

The current waiver exempts residents in the counties of Accomack, Buchanan, Dickenson, Essex, Giles, Halifax, Henry, Lee, Prince Edward, Russell, Smyth, Surry, Tazewell, Wise, and the cities of Danville, Martinsville, Norton, and Williamsburg.

We request the extension of the waiver from the work requirement for the following localities for the period beginning July 1, 2001. The counties are

Accomack, Buchanan, Carroll, Dickenson, Giles, Halifax, Lee, Russell, Surry, Tazewell, Wise, and the cities of Danville and Norton. Supporting documentation from the Virginia Employment Commission is attached.

Other localities meet the labor surplus designation. Officials in these areas have chosen to apply the work requirement and time-limited benefits.

9. **Implementation date:** We are asking that this waiver will be effective July 1, 2001, through October 31, 2002, to align with the federal fiscal year when other program changes traditionally occur.
10. **Quality control procedures:** There are no special quality control procedures needed in conjunction with this waiver.
11. **Signature and title of requesting official:** Jean K. Sheil
Jean K. Sheil
Deputy Commissioner
Program Operations
12. **Date of request:** 7/01/01

VIRGINIA EMPLOYMENT COMMISSION
LABOR SURPLUS AREAS
ELIGIBLE FOR FEDERAL PROCUREMENT PREFERENCE
OCTOBER 1, 2000 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2001

ELIGIBLE LABOR SURPLUS AREAS

ACCOMACK COUNTY
BUCHANAN COUNTY
CARROLL COUNTY
COVINGTON CITY
DANVILLE CITY
DICKENSON COUNTY
GILES COUNTY
HALIFAX COUNTY
LANCASTER COUNTY
LEE COUNTY
MARTINSVILLE CITY
NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY
NORTON CITY
RUSSELL COUNTY
SCOTT COUNTY
SURRY COUNTY
TAZEWELL COUNTY
WISE COUNTY

CIVIL JURISDICTIONS INCLUDED

ACCOMACK COUNTY
BUCHANAN COUNTY
CARROLL COUNTY
COVINGTON CITY
DANVILLE CITY
DICKENSON COUNTY
GILES COUNTY
HALIFAX COUNTY
LANCASTER COUNTY
LEE COUNTY
MARTINSVILLE CITY
NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY
NORTON CITY
RUSSELL COUNTY
SCOTT COUNTY
SURRY COUNTY
TAZEWELL COUNTY
WISE COUNTY