

United States Department of Agriculture
Food and Nutrition Service

Western Region

SEP 07 2001

CPS

Reply to
Attn of:

Subject:

To:

FSP - Idaho Expanded ABAWD Waiver Request to Non-Tribal Areas

Art Foley, Director

Program Development Division

FS-10-6-ID/Waiver

Enclosed please find Idaho's request to expand waiving the requirement to limit the participation of ABAWDs who are not working or participating in a work program at least 20 hours per week to three months in a 36-month period. This request applies to ABAWDs who live in the listed 24 non-tribal area Counties which are designated as Labor Surplus Areas by the U.S. Department of Labor, with the exception of Lincoln County, which has an unemployment rate of more than 20 percent.

We have reviewed the State's request and justification and recommend approving the waivers as requested for Fiscal Year 2002 ending September 30, 2002.

If you have any questions please contact Judy Yudico at (415) 705-1320, ext. 322.

Michael J. Denzin
for DENNIS STEWART
Regional Director
Food Stamp Program
Western Region

Enclosure

cc: Portland F/O
POS, FSP, WRO

STATE OF IDAHO
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND WELFARE
FOOD STAMP PROGRAM WAIVER REQUEST
AUGUST 6, 2001

1.	Type of Request:	Initial
2.	Primary regulation citation:	7 CFR 273.24(f)
3.	Secondary regulation citation:	N/A
4.	State:	Idaho
5.	Region:	Western
6.	Regulatory requirements:	

Section 6(o) of the Food Stamp Act, as amended by Section 824 of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act (PWORKA), P. L. 104-193, states no able-bodied individual between the ages of 18 and 50, without dependent children 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 or more hours 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 PWORKA, also provides that, on 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 determines that the area in which the individuals reside has an unemployment rate of over 10 percent, or does not have enough jobs to provide employment for the individuals.

7 CFR 273.24(f)(3) indicates FNS will approve State agency waivers where FNS confirms data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics shows an area has a most recent 12 month average unemployment rate over 10 percent, evidence that the area has been designated a Labor Surplus area by the ETA for the current fiscal year or that an area has a 24 month average unemployment rate that exceeds the national average by 20 percent for any 24-month period.

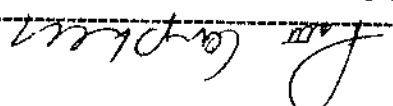
7. Proposed alternative procedure:

Waive the time limit for able bodied adults with no dependents (ABAWDS) who live in a non-tribal area in which the unemployment rate is over 10 percent; or does not have a sufficient number of jobs to provide employment for them. Currently, Idaho has a waiver of the time limit for tribal reservations. According to the U.S. Department of Labor's (DOL) list of Labor Surplus Areas (LSAs) the following Idaho counties meet the waiver criteria from the three-month time limit criteria in non-tribal area counties:

Adams County	Custer County	Minidoka County
Benewah County	Elmore County	Nez Perce County
Boise County	Fremont County	except Lewiston City
Bonner County	Gem County	Payette County
Boundary County	Idaho County	Power County
Caribou County	Kootenai County	Shoshone County
Cassia County	Lemhi County	Valley County
Clearwater County	Lewis County	Washington County
	Lincoln County	

Attached is documentation received from the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities on unemployment rates for Idaho areas, areas that had an unemployment rate more than 20 percent above the national average for calendar years 1998 and 1999, and areas that had an unemployment rate more than 20 percent above the national average for federal fiscal years 1999 and 2000. The above areas qualified for a waiver under data from either of the two twenty-four-month-periods.

Lincoln County qualifies for a waiver because it had an unemployment rate more than 20 percent above the national average for calendar years 1998 and 1999.

8. **Justification for request:**
This is an Agency option per Section 6(o)(4) of the Food Stamp Act and per 7 CFR 273.24 (f).
9. **Anticipated impact on households and State agency operations:**
This waiver would allow individuals residing in the above areas to continue to receive Food Stamps because they cannot meet the work requirements.
10. **Caseload information:**
Idaho's current Food Stamp caseload is approximately 24,500. The portion of the caseload that resides in these counties is estimated at 35 percent.
11. **Anticipated implementation date and time period for which the waiver is needed:**
Idaho requests a waiver beginning October 2001 through September 2002.
12. **Signature and title of requesting official:**

Patti Campbell, Chief
Bureau of Benefit Program Operations
15. **Date of Request:** August 6, 2001