

TO: Margaret Batko COMPANY:

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From: Name: Glenda Smith
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Fax Notes:

Attached is a request from SC for an extension and modification of ABAWD waivers #970044 and 970112. Also, attached for your information is a copy of a letter from SC which advises how the S/A intends to use the 15 percent exemption. SC plans to remove Calhoun County from those subject to the 15 percent exemption policy as Calhoun has been classified as an LSA and is being added to the appropriate waiver. We recommend approval of the State's request.

Date and time of transmission: Tuesday, January 09, 2001 11:14:16 AM
Number of pages including this cover sheet: 05

**SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES**

Elizabeth G. Patterson, J.D., State Director , P.O. Box 1520, Columbia, S.C. 29202-1520

DEC 11 2000

Mr. Gilbert Camacho, Regional Director
Food Stamp Program
Southeast Region
USDA, Food and Nutrition Service
61 Forsyth Street, S.W., Suite 8T36
Atlanta, GA 30303

Re: Waivers Number 970044 and 970112

Dear Mr. Camacho:

Enclosed is South Carolina's request for an extension of our waiver of Section 6(o) of the Food Stamp Act, as amended by Section 824 of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act (PRWORA). Waivers numbered 970044 and 970112.

A favorable response to this request will be greatly appreciated. If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Sandy Allen of my staff at (803) 737-9238.

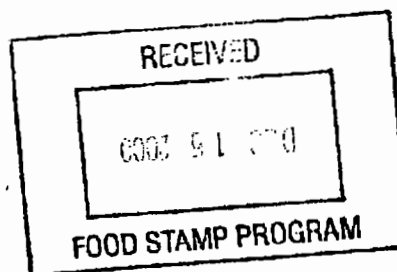
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Laurel R. Addy", is written over the typed name.

Laurel R. Addy, Director
Family Nutrition Programs
Division of Family Independence

LRA/ac

Enclosure



WAIVER REQUEST

1. **Waiver serial number:** 970044 and 970112
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 Reconciliation Act (PRWORA) of 1996, P.L. 104-193.
4. **Secondary regulation citation:** None
5. **State:** South Carolina
6. **Region:** Southeast Region
7. **Regulatory requirements:** Section 6(o) of the Food Stamp Act, as amended by Section 824 of 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 during which the individual did not:
 - a. Work 20 hours or more per week, averaged monthly;
 - b. Participate in and comply with the requirements of a work program for 20 hours or more per week; or
 - c. Participate in and comply with requirements of a program under Section 20 or a comparable program established by the state.

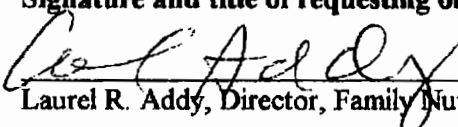
Section 6(o) of the Food Stamp Act, as amended by Section 824 of the PRWORA, also provides that, upon the request of a State agency, the Secretary may waive the applicability of the above provision for any group of individuals in the state if the Secretary makes a determination that the area in which 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:** South Carolina is requesting a waiver to exempt individuals who reside in 4 counties from the work requirement provision of Section 6(o) of the Food Stamp Act, as amended by Section 824 of the PRWORA, as these counties had an annual average unemployment rate over 10 percent for the period of October 1999-September 2000. South Carolina is also requesting in this waiver to exempt individuals who live in additional 15 counties from the work requirement provision of Section 6(o) of the Food Stamp Act, as amended by Section 824 of the PRWORA as these areas have been identified as Labor Surplus Areas (LSA) by the Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration (ETA). This brings our total exempted population to 19 counties.

9. **Justification for request:** Statistics secured from Employment Security Commission, a cooperating agency with the Bureau of Labor Statistics, show the following areas with average unemployment rate of 10% or more for Fiscal Year 2000:

<u>County</u>	<u>Average Unemployment Rate for FY 00</u>
Dillon	10.1%
Marion	14.2%
Marlboro	10.4%
Williamsburg	12.8%

Statistics from the U.S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration show the following areas as labor surplus areas: Allendale, Bamberg, Barnwell, Calhoun, Chester, Chesterfield, Clarendon, Darlington, Fairfield, Georgetown, Greenwood, Lee, McCormick, Orangeburg and Union Counties.

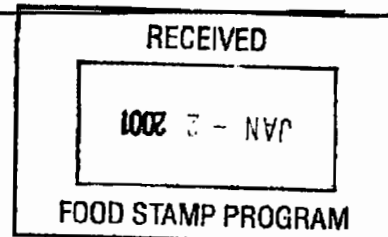
10. **Anticipated impact on households and State agency operations:** The extension of this waiver will allow individuals who reside in areas with unemployment rates of 10 percent or more the opportunity to participate in the Food Stamp Program without being required to meet unrealistic work requirements. In addition, South Carolina will be able to exempt areas in which there are not enough jobs for groups of individuals who may be affected by the new time limits in the Food Stamp Program.
11. **Caseload information, including percent, characteristics, and quality control error rate for affected portion:** An estimated number of 1,592 individuals will be exempted due to unemployment rates of 10 percent or more or residence in labor surplus areas.
12. **Anticipated implementation date and time period for which waiver is needed:**
Extension of these waivers is requested for a one-year time period to begin March 1, 2001.
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:**

Laurel R. Addy, Director, Family Nutrition Programs
15. **Date of request:**



SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

Elizabeth G. Patterson, J.D., State Director, P.O. Box 1520, Columbia, S.C. 29202-1520

DEC 28 2000



Mr. Gilbert Camacho, Regional Director
Food Stamp Program
Southeast Region
USDA, Food and Nutrition Service
61 Forsyth Street, SW, Suite 8T36
Atlanta, GA 30303

Dear Mr. Camacho:

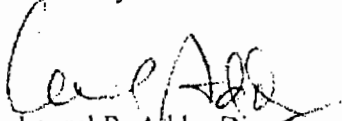
The Balanced Budget Act of 1997 allows states to exempt from Section 6(o) work requirement for Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWDs) up to 15 percent of a state's covered individuals.

South Carolina is currently using this waiver to exempt the following counties: Abbeville, Aiken, Anderson, Calhoun, Charleston, Florence, and Hampton. However, our extension request of waivers 970044 and 970112 modifies the counties that were exempted from Section 6(o) by waiver authority. As a result of this extension request, we are changing the way that we will utilize our 15 percent exemption.

Effective March 1, 2001, South Carolina will use the 15 percent exemption to exempt all ABAWDs in the following counties: Abbeville, Aiken, Anderson, Charleston, Florence, and Hampton. We will no longer use the 15 percent exemption to exempt ABAWDs in Calhoun county as Calhoun is now considered a labor surplus area. Notification has not yet been received from Food and Nutrition regarding the number of exempt slots for Fiscal Year 2001. However, we feel that the estimated number of ABAWD individuals in these counties will be less than our allocated number of slots. We will use our 15 percent exemption in this way in order to continue our exempt counties at status quo.

If you have questions regarding this information, please contact me at (803) 737-9238.

Sincerely,


Laurel R. Addy, Director
Family Nutrition Programs
Family Independence

LRA/at