



United States Department of Agriculture
Food and Nutrition Service

Midwest Region

202-0071

EPB
Joyce
NW
3/18/02

Reply to 100:FS 13-1-3 WI
attn of:

12 MAR 2002

Subject: WI Waiver Request

To: Art Foley, Director
Program Development Division
Food Stamp Program

Attached is a copy of a letter and supporting documentation received from the Wisconsin State agency on March 7, 2002. Wisconsin is requesting to waive Section 6(o) of the Food Stamp Act as amended by Section 824 of Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunities Reconciliation Act (PRWORA) of 1996.

The State agency is requesting that all areas listed in this waiver request be exempted from March 1, 2002 to February 28, 2003. The State is requesting exemption for 20 counties and 3 municipalities based on Labor Surplus Area, or Unemployment rate 20% above national average or above 6% (Attachment 1). They request to apply their 15% exemption allowance for the balance of the State's ABAWD population (Attachment 2). Wisconsin is supporting their request with statistics from the Center of Budget and Policy Priorities and WI Food Stamp Data Warehouse. Please see the attached letter and attachments from Wisconsin for additional information.

We recommend that this waiver request be approved retroactively, as it appears to meet the requirements for waiver of Section 6(o) of Food Stamp Act as amended by Section 824 of PRWORA of 1996. If you have any questions or require any further information regarding this waiver request, please feel free to contact me or have your staff contact Mary Black-Finke at 312-353-0577.

Sincerely,

OLLICE C. HOLDEN
Regional Director
Food Stamp Program

Attachments

Scott McCallum
Governor

Jennifer Reinert
Secretary

Ronald F. Hunt
Mary C. Rowin
Deputy Division Administrators



State of Wisconsin
Department of Workforce Development


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February 25, 2002

Mr. Ollice Holden
Regional Director
Food Stamp Program
USDA, Midwest Regional Office
77 West Jackson Blvd., 20th Floor
Chicago, Illinois 60604-3507

Dear Mr. Holden:

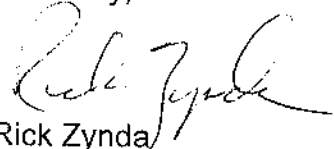
We are requesting waiver approval under Section 6(o) of the Food Stamp Act, as amended by Section 824 of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity and Reconciliation Act of 1996 (PRWORA), to exempt able-bodied adult food stamp recipients without dependents (ABAWD) from time-limited benefit work requirements.

This waiver is for specific geographic areas that meet waiver criteria due to unemployment rates during the previous calendar or fiscal years of 6% or more, 20% above the national average, or identified as Labor Surplus Areas (LSA) by the U.S. Department of Labor. We have established that 85% of Wisconsin's ABAWD food stamp recipients live in these areas.

We seek to apply our 15% exemption allowance for the ABAWD's in the balance of the state. Through a combination of this waiver and the 15% exemption allowance, none of the ABAWD food stamp recipients will be subject to time-limited benefit work requirements in Wisconsin.

Thank you for your consideration of this waiver request. If you have any questions, please contact me or have a member of your staff contact Sara Pynenberg at (608) 266-9186.

Sincerely,


Rick Zynda
Acting Director

Enclosure

Rec'd
3/7/02
By
MAY

WAIVER REQUEST

Type of Request:	Initial
Primary Regulation Citation:	7 CFR 273.24
Secondary Regulation Citation:	None
State:	Wisconsin
Region:	Midwest Region
Regulatory Requirements:	Currently individuals age 18 through 49 are subject to time-limited FS benefit eligibility unless they meet certain work requirements or exemption criteria.
Proposed Alternative Procedures:	Wisconsin is requesting approval under Section 6(o) of the Food Stamp Act, as amended by Section 824 of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Act of 1996 (PRWORA). This waiver is for specific geographic areas to be effective March 1, 2002, through February 28, 2003. We have received information from the Center of Budget and Policy Priorities (CBPP) that lists areas in Wisconsin that meet the eligibility requirements for waivers based on unemployment rates that exceed an established tolerance level or appear on the U.S. Department of Labor's list of Labor Surplus Areas. The information from the CBPP report is included in the tables attached at the end of this document. In addition, Wisconsin plans to use its 15% exemption allowance to waive recipients in the balance of the State from ABAWD time-limited requirements. The attached table includes information from our Food Stamp Data Warehouse reports showing that approximately 85% of the ABAWD population live in areas included on the lists we received from CBPP. Therefore, the 15% exemption criteria will be used to waive ABAWD recipients living in the balance of the State.

Justification For Waiver:

Wisconsin requires engagement in work-related activities for all individuals referred to the Food Stamp Employment and Training Program (FSET), including all ABAWDs. These individuals are subject to sanction penalties for non-compliance in assigned activities. The waiver of time-limited benefit work requirements due to the current lack of employment opportunities will enable FSET case managers to assign activities that will best serve the needs of individual participants without the restrictions required for ABAWD individuals.

Anticipated Impact on Households and State Agency Operations:

ABAWD individuals will continue to be mandatory participants in the FSET Program, however they will no longer be subject to time-limited benefit requirements. Using the 15% exemption criteria to extend the waiver to the balance of the State will provide consistent policy implementation statewide.

Caseload, QC Error Rate Data:

Using the period of time from 10/01/2001 through 12/31/2001, reports were retrieved from Wisconsin's Food Stamp Data Warehouse. There were an average of 4142 ABAWD food stamp recipients per month. An average of 3524 or 85% of these recipients lived in waiver eligible areas of the state. The remaining 15% of the ABAWD recipients statewide would be exempt from time-limited benefits using the 15% exemption criteria to expand the ABAWD exemptions statewide.

Anticipated Implementation Date and Time Period for Waiver:

We would implement this waiver as soon as possible after receiving approval. Waiver renewal would depend on future unemployment rates.

Waiver Eligible - Labor Surplus Area or Unemployment Rate 20% above national average or above 6%

**Number of ABAWDs residing in waiver eligible areas in Wisconsin
October – December 2001**

LSA – Appears on Labor Surplus List

F – Eligible based on unemployment rate for FY 2000 - 2001

CF – Eligible based on unemployment rate for CY 1999-2000 and for FY 2000-2001

Area	Waiver Criteria	Unemployment Rate CY 1999-2000	Unemployment Rate FY 2000-2001	Total ABAWDs Oct-Dec 2001
Ashland Co.	LSA	7.4%	7.3%	10
Bayfield Co.	LSA	6.1%	6.2%	2
Clark Co.	CF	5.3%	6.2%	13
Florence Co.	LSA	6.5%	6.5%	2
Forest Co.	CF	5.8%	6.4%	4
Iron Co.	LSA	6.3%	6.5%	3
Juneau Co.	LSA	6.8%	7.5%	19
City of Kenosha	F	4.5%	5.0%	252
Langlade Co.	CF	5.4%	6.3%	34
Lincoln Co.	F	4.8%	5.1%	20
City of Manitowoc	F	4.2%	5.2%	11
Marinette Co.	F	4.8%	5.4%	28
Marquette Co.	CF	5.6%	6.4%	6
Menominee Co.	LSA	8.5%	9.6%	11
City of Milwaukee	LSA	6.1%	6.8%	9707
Oconto Co.	F	4.5%	5.2%	27
Oneida Co.	F	4.8%	5.2%	10
Price Co.	LSA	6.9%	6.9%	4
Racine Co.	F	4.6%	5.2%	191
Rock Co.	F	4.5%	5.3%	197
Rusk Co.	CF	5.7%	6.6%	11
Sawyer Co.	CF	5.4%	5.5%	8
Washburn Co.	CF	5.6%	5.8%	3
			Total	10573
			Avg. per month	3524

LSA
7 counties
1 city

20070
13 counties
& cities

1

**Number of ABAWDs residing in the balance of the State of Wisconsin
October – December 2001**

Area	Total ABAWDs Oct-Dec 2001	Area	Total ABAWDs Oct-Dec 2001
Adams Co.	11	Ozaukee Co.	13
Barron Co.	51	Pepin Co.	0
Brown Co.	160	Pierce Co.	4
Buffalo Co.	14	Polk Co.	9
Burnett Co.	5	Portage Co.	22
Calumet Co.	1	Richland Co.	11
Chippewa Co.	28	St. Croix Co.	11
Columbia Co.	19	Sauk Co.	37
Crawford Co.	0	Shawano Co.	16
Dane Co.	264	Sheboygan Co.	33
Dodge Co.	33	Taylor Co.	11
Door Co.	13	Trempealeau Co.	7
Douglas Co.	68	Vernon Co.	7
Dunn Co.	25	Vilas Co.	1
Eau Claire Co.	76	Walworth Co.	49
Fond du Lac Co.	39	Washington Co.	36
Grant Co.	9	Waukesha Co.	74
Green Co.	18	Waupaca Co.	21
Green Lake Co.	7	Wauspaca Co.	21
Iowa Co.	2	Waushara Co.	35
Jackson Co.	35	Winnebago Co.	53
Jefferson Co.	13	Wood Co.	69
Kenosha Co. (not including city of Kenosha)	35	Red Cliff Tribe	39
Kewaunee Co.	6	Stockbridge-Munsee Tribe	3
La Crosse Co.	62	Lac du Flambeau Tribe	42
Lafayette Co.	7	Bad River Tribe	11
Manitowoc Co. (not including city of Manitowoc)	2	Sokaogon Tribe	19
Marathon Co.	94	Oneida Tribal Council	8
Milwaukee Co. (not including city of Milwaukee)	68	Total	1855
Monroe Co.	22	Average per Month	618
Outagamie Co.	27		

October 2001 – December 2001

Average # of ABAWDs in Wisconsin - 4142

Average # of ABAWDs residing in waiver eligible areas – 3524 (85%)

Average # of ABAWDs residing in the balance of the state – 618 (15%)