



United States Department of Agriculture
Food and Nutrition Service

Western Region

Valerie
mm
6/9/03

Reply to
Attn of:

FS 10-6 AZ Waiver #970148 & 970149

JUN 03 2003

Subject:

FSP - Arizona – ABAWD Waiver Extension Request –
Labor Surplus Areas and High Unemployment

To:

Art Foley, Director
Program Development Division
Food Stamp Program

Attached is Arizona's request to extend and modify waivers 970148 and 970149. Waiver 970148 exempts the State's Labor Surplus Areas from the provisions of Section 6(o)(2) of the Food Stamp Act, as amended by Section 824 of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996. Waiver 970149 exempts Native American Reservations with an unemployment rate greater than 10%.

Arizona's request regarding waiver 970148 is based on Department of Labor information about Labor Surplus Areas for October 2002 through September 2003. Since Gila County, previously included in this waiver, is no longer identified as a Labor Surplus Area, Arizona is seeking to continue the exemption for Gila County based on a two year unemployment rate more than 20 percent above the national average.

Data from the Federal Register supports Arizona's request for the Labor Surplus Areas. The State based their request for Gila County on information from the Center on Budget & Policy Priority that identifies areas that would qualify for an ABAWD waiver. We have added data from the Department of Labor to support Arizona's request. Combined data for 2001 and 2002 provide an unemployment rate of 7.02 percent for Gila County.

Arizona's request to extend and modify waiver 970149 is based on unemployment data for 2002. Three Native American Reservations are being added to this waiver, Camp Verde, Fort Mohave, and Yavapai. The special unemployment report that supports this claim is rather large as it contains data for the entire State, so only the cover sheet and the Native American Reservation portions have been provided for your review. If a copy of the entire report is needed, please let us know.

The State is requesting an extension of these waivers for a one year period, through April 30, 2004. We recommend approval of these extensions with the requested modifications.

If you have any questions, please contact Donna Clifton at (415) 705-1320 extension 308.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dennis Stewart", is positioned above the printed name.

DENNIS STEWART
Regional Director
Food Stamp Program
Western Region

Enclosure