

STATE OF IDAHO
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND WELFARE

FOOD STAMP PROGRAM WAIVER REQUEST

March 17, 2003

1. **Waiver serial number:** 970161
2. **Type of Request:** Extension of Waiver
3. **Primary regulation citation:** 7 CFR 273.24
4. **Secondary regulation citation:** N/A
5. **State:** Idaho
6. **Region:** Western

7. **Regulatory requirements:**

Section 6(o) of the Food Stamp Act, as amended by Section 824 of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act (PRWORA), 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.

8. **Proposed alternative procedure:**

The unemployment rate for residents of the Coeur d'Alene Reservation, (Benewah and Kootenai Counties) exceeds 10 percent. According to the Idaho Department of Labor statistics, the 12 month rolling average unemployment rate as of June 2002 for the reservation was 16.4 percent. The unemployment rate for this Reservation area has remained high the last two years. The 24 month rolling average unemployment rate for the Coeur d'Alene Reservation is 16.5 percent. This area qualifies for a waiver of the work requirement.

9. **Justification for request:**

This is an Agency option per Section 6(o)(4) of the Food Stamp Act.

10. Anticipated impact on households and State agency operations:

This waiver would allow individuals residing on the Coeur d'Alene Reservation which has unemployment of more than 10 percent to be exempt from the work requirements and to continue receiving Food Stamps.

11. Caseload Information:

Idaho's current Food Stamp caseload is approximately 31,128. The portion of the caseload that resides in this area is estimated at 1 percent.

12. Anticipated implementation date and time period for which the waiver is needed:

Idaho wishes to implement the waiver retroactively to March 1, 2003. Idaho request that the waiver be granted for not less than one year.

13. Proposed quality control review procedures:

As this is an extension of existing policy in the State, no changes in quality control review procedures are needed.

14. Signature and Title of Requesting Individual

Philip Gordon, Chief
Bureau of Benefit Program Operations

15. Date of request:

March 17, 2003

STATE OF IDAHO
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND WELFARE

FOOD STAMP PROGRAM WAIVER REQUEST
March 17, 2003

1. **Waiver serial number:** 970162
2. **Type of Request:** Extension of Waiver
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. 104-103.
4. **Secondary regulation citation:** N/A
5. **State:** Idaho
6. **Region:** Western
7. **Regulatory requirements:**

Section 6(o) of the Food Stamp Act, as amended by Section 824 of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act (PRWORA), 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.

8. Proposed alternative procedure:

The unemployment rate for residents of the Nez Perce Reservation, (Idaho, Lewis, Nez Perce, and Clearwater Counties), the Fort Hall Reservation (Bannock, Bingham, Caribou, and Power Counties), and the Duck Valley Reservation (Owyhee County) areas, according to Idaho Department of Labor Statistics, exceed more than 10 percent. These areas qualify for a waiver of the work requirement.

The unemployment rate for the Nez Perce Reservation was 17.1 percent. The Fort Hall Reservation had an unemployment rate of 26.3 percent and the Duck Valley Reservation, 14.8 percent. This information is based on a 12 month rolling average as

of June 2002. The reservations are in the following counties which have been identified as Labor Surplus Areas by the Department of Labor:

Benewah County
Idaho County
Kootenai County (except Coeur d'Alene City)
Lewis County
Nez Perce County
Power County

9. Justification for request:

This is an Agency option per Section 6(o)(4) of the Food Stamp Act.

10. Anticipated impact on households and State agency operations:

This waiver would allow individuals residing on the Nez Perce, Fort Hall, Kootenai and Duck Valley Reservations to be exempt from the work requirement and to continue receiving Food Stamps.

*Benewah
Coeur d'Alene
IDA*

11. Caseload Information:

Idaho's current Food Stamp caseload is approximately 31,128. The portion of the caseload that resides in these counties is estimated at 15.13 percent.

12. Anticipated implementation date and time period for which the waiver is needed:

Idaho wishes to implement the waiver retroactively to March 1, 2003. Idaho request that the waiver be granted for not less than one year.

13. Proposed quality control review procedures:

As this is an extension of existing policy in the State, no changes in quality control review procedures are needed.

14. Signature and Title of Requesting Individual

Philip Gordon, Chief
Bureau of Benefit Program Operations

15. Date of request:

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