



United States Department of Agriculture

Food and Nutrition Service

Northeast Region

Joe
10/1/02
CPB

Date: September 27, 2002

Subject: Maine-Waiver Request of Section 6(0) of the Act as amended by Sec. 824 of PRWORA

To:

Art Foley, Director
Program Development Division

Please find the attached waiver extension request for waivers # 970315 and waiver # 970140 for the state of Maine. They are renewing the first one, which is due to expire on October 31, 2002, and request to include the second one which is not due to expire until March 2003 so that there will be only one geographic waiver for the state of Maine. This will ease their efforts in the administration of policies regarding the ABAWD population.

The waivers allow residents of designated areas in Maine to be exempt from the time limits described in Section 824 of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act. The unemployment rates for these areas exceed the national average rate by more than 20 per cent.

Maine is hoping to adopt the new policies by November 1, 2002. We regret that we were unable to send you their request for an extension earlier, but there were some delays in transmitting it.

If you have any questions on this information, please contact Caitlin Reilly at (617) 565-6420.

Sincerely,

Mary Ann Ferris

Mary Ann Ferris, Chief
State Program Improvement
Food Stamp Program
Northeast Region

Attachment



STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
11 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE
04333-0011

ANGUS S. KING, JR.
GOVERNOR

KEVIN W. CONCANNON
COMMISSIONER

August 16, 2002

Robert L. Canavan
Food Stamp Director
Food & Nutrition Services
NERO
10 Causeway Street
Boston, MA 02222

Dear Mr. Canavan:

Please find the enclosed request of extension for waiver #970315 and waiver #970140. We are requesting to combine these waivers so that there would be only one geographic waiver for the State of Maine. This will ease our efforts in the administration of policies regarding the ABAWD population.

These waivers allow residents of designated areas in Maine to be exempt from time limited accessibility to the food stamp program as described at Section 824 of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act.

The unemployment rates for these areas exceed the national average rate by more than 20 per cent.

We are in hopes of a quick response as we will need to reprogram our ACES system and adopt new policies for November 1, 2002.

Thank you for any assistance you may provide. If you have any questions, please contact Rick Morrow at (207) 287-5093.

Sincerely,

Judy H.M. Williams, Director
Bureau of Family Independence

AUG 19 2002



WAIVER REQUEST OUTLINE

1. **Waiver serial number (if request is extension):**
970315/970140

2. **Type of request:**
Extension

3. **Primary regulation citation, if any:**
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, if any:** 7 CFR 273.24 (f)(3)(iii)

5. **State:** Maine

6. **Region:** NERO

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, 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 (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 hours or more 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 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.

In addition, 7 CFR 273.24 (f)(3)(iii) permits states to use "data from the BLS or the BLS cooperating agency that an area has a 24-month average unemployment rate that exceeds the national average by 20 percent for any 24-month period no earlier than the same periods the ETA used to designate LSA's for the current fiscal year."

8. **Proposed alternative procedures:**

The State of Maine is requesting to combine its two geographic waivers #970315 (due to expire October 31, 2002) and #970140 (due to expire March 31, 2002). It will be more

administratively efficient to have just one geographic waiver on an annual basis. The State of Maine requests to extend its waivers of the requirements of Section 824 of the PRWORA on the basis of insufficient jobs for the residents of the following counties: Franklin, Oxford, Piscataquis, Somerset and Washington. We wish to extend this waiver to include the following LMAs: Farmington, Norway-Paris, Calais, Fort Kent, Millinocket-East Millinocket, Patten-Island Falls, Van Buren, Ellsworth-Bar Harbor, Outer Bangor, Lincoln-Howland, and Dexter-Pittsfield.

In addition, we wish to exclude the residents in the following municipalities that are not part of either the above mentioned counties or LMAs: Leeds, Mechanic Falls, New Sweden, Ashland, Bridgewater, Cary Plantation, Caswell Plantation, Dyer Brook, , Fort Fairfield, Grand Isle, Houlton, Limestone, Monticello, Oakfield, Oxbow Plantation, Perham, Portage Lake, St. Agatha, Stacyville, Stockholm, Harrison, Bucksport, Orland, Sedgwick, Albion, Benton, Clinton, Gardiner, Monmouth, Mount Vernon, Readfield, Vienna, Clifton, Dixmont, Drew Plt., Stacyville, Bowdoin, Richmond, Burnham, Frankfort, Freedom, Islesboro, Liberty, Palermo, Stockton Springs, Thorndike, Troy, Acton, Ogunquit, and Sanford.

9. Justification for request:

For this request we have used four different time periods:

January 1999-December 2000 is designated in the submitted material in **column A**. The national error rate for this time period was 4.1, plus 20% equals 4.9.

October 1999-September 2001 is designated in the submitted material in **column B**. The national error rate for this time period was 4.2, plus 20% equals 5.1.

January 2000-December 2001 is designated in the submitted material in **column C**. The national error rate for this time period was 4.4, plus 20% equals 5.3.

June 2000-May 2002 is designated in the submitted material in **column D**. The national error rate for this time period was 4.7, plus 20% equals 5.7.

All of the raw data supporting our numbers that we have used is from the BLS website. We are also in receipt of approved waivers from both New York and Pennsylvania submitted in this current federal fiscal year that rely on data from calendar years 1999 and 2000.

We are submitting individual BLS statistics for the time period of January 1999 through May 2002 for the municipalities that are not included in the counties or the LMAs for which we are requesting an exemption. For these municipalities we have highlighted the name of the municipality and the corresponding rates for one time period. All of them are highlighted for the time period January 1999-December 2000 (which is column A) except for the municipality of Perham. Most of the municipalities meet the criteria of more than one column however we thought that highlighting at least one would ease in the processing of this request. The municipality of Perham fits into the three other columns, not the annual figures of 1999 and 2000.

Additional data for these municipalities is also included which shows the numbers of unemployed and the labor force for the time period of January 1999 through May 2002 and the 24-month average unemployment

The data on the county and LMA unemployment rates are from the BLS.

10. Anticipated impact on households and State agency operations:

This waiver will provide consistency for households and State agency operations in areas where unemployment remains higher than the national average.

11. Caseload information, including percent, characteristics, and quality control error rate for affected portion:

The caseload for these areas, as of July 2002, represents 33% of the caseload for the state. There are no quality control procedures involved.

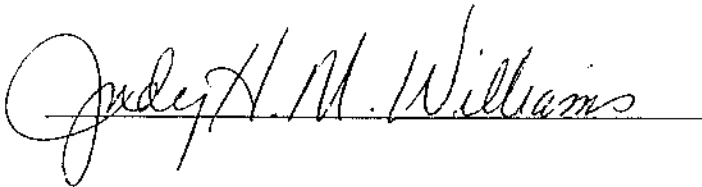
12. Anticipated implementation date and time period for which waiver is needed:

Waiver # 970315 currently has an expiration date of October 31, 2001. Waiver # 970140 has an expiration date of March 31, 2003. For this combined waiver request, we would request at least a one year waiver through October 31, 2003.

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:

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Judy H.M. Williams", written over a horizontal line.

Judy H.M. Williams, Director
Bureau of Family Independence

15. Date of request:

August 16, 2002

BACK UP MATERIAL FOR 8/02 REQUEST

FOR WAIVER # 970315/970140

Code	Time Period	National Average	National Average plus 20%
A	January 1999-December 2000	4.1%	4.9%
B	October 1999-September 2001	4.2%	5.1%
C	January 2000-December 2001	4.4%	5.3%
D	June 2000-May 2002	4.7%	5.7%

The chart below indicates the cities and towns that we believe are eligible for geographic waivers and the period that we based their eligibility on.

Location	Part of an Approved LSA	Unemployment greater than 20% of the corresponding federal rate
Androscoggin County		
Leeds		A (5.5 average)
Livermore	Farmington LMA—A,B,C,D	A,B,C,D
Livermore Falls	Farmington LMA—A,B,C,D	A,B,C,D
Mechanic Falls		A (6.15 average), B,C
Minot	Norway-Paris LMA—A	
Aroostook County		
Orient	Calais LMA—A,B,C,D	
Weston	Calais LMA—A,B,C,D	
Allagash	Ft. Kent LMA—A,B,C,D	
Eagle Lake	Ft. Kent LMA—A,B,C,D	
Fort Kent	Ft. Kent LMA—A,B,C,D	
New Canada	Ft. Kent LMA—A,B,C,D	
New Sweden		B (8.65 average)
Northwest Aroostook unorg	Ft. Kent LMA—A,B,C,D	
St. Francis	Ft. Kent LMA—A,B,C,D	
St. John	Ft. Kent LMA—A,B,C,D	
Wallagrass Plnt	Ft. Kent LMA—A,B,C,D	
Winterville Plnt	Ft. Kent LMA—A,B,C,D	
Bancroft	Mill.-E.Mill LMA—A,B,C,D	

Glenwood Plnt	Mill-E Mill LMA— A,B,C,D	
Haynesville	Mill-E Mill LMA— A,B,C,D	
Kingman Unorg	Mill-E Mill LMA— A,B,C,D	
Macwahoc Plnt	Mill-E Mill LMA— A,B,C,D	
Reed Plnt	Mill-E Mill LMA— A,B,C,D	
South Aroostook Unorg	Mill-E Mill LMA— A,B,C,D	
Crystal	Patten-Island Falls LMA— A,B,C,D	
Hersey	Patten-Island Falls LMA— A,B,C,D	
Island Falls	Patten-Island Falls LMA— A,B,C,D	
Moro Plnt	Patten-Island Falls LMA— A,B,C,D	
Sherman	Patten-Island Falls LMA— A,B,C,D	
Cyr Plnt	Van Buren LMA—A,B,C	
Hamlin	Van Buren LMA—A,B,C	
Van Buren	Van Buren LMA—A,B,C	
Ashland		A (8.7 average), B,C,D
Bridgewater		A (5.35 average), C,D
Cary Plnt		A (10.05 average), B,C,D
Caswell Plnt		A (9.7 average), B,C,D
Dyer Brook		A (9.85 average), B,C,D
Fort Fairfield		A (5.3 average)
Grand Isle		A (7.8 average), B,C
Houlton		A (5.25 average)
Limestone		A (5.35 average)
Monticello		A (6.75 average), B
Oakfield		A (5.95 average), B
Oxbow Plnt		A (14.25 average), B,C,D
Perham		B (5.8 average), C,D
Portage Lake		A (6.7 average)
St. Agatha		A (5.15 average)
Stockholm		A (6.7 average), B,C
Cumberland		
Harrison		A (5.4 average)
Franklin County		A,B,C,D

Hancock County		
Amherst	Ellsworth-Bar Harbor LMA—A,B	
Aurora	Ellsworth-Bar Harbor LMA—A,B	A,B,C,D
Bar Harbor	Ellsworth-Bar Harbor LMA—A,B	A,B,C,D
Bucksport		A (5.25 average)
Central Hancock Unorg	Ellsworth-Bar Harbor LMA—A,B	
Cranberry Islands	Ellsworth-Bar Harbor LMA—A, B	
Eastbrook	Ellsworth-Bar Harbor LMA—A,B	
East Hancock Unorg	Ellsworth-Bar Harbor LMA—A,B	
Ellsworth	Ellsworth-Bar Harbor LMA—A,B	A,B,C
Franklin	Ellsworth-Bar Harbor LMA—A,B	A,B,C,D
Gouldsboro	Ellsworth-Bar Harbor LMA—A,B	A,B,C
Great Pond	Ellsworth-Bar Harbor LMA—A, B	
Hancock	Ellsworth-Bar Harbor LMA—A,B	
Lamoine	Ellsworth-Bar Harbor LMA—A,B	
Mariaville	Ellsworth-Bar Harbor LMA—A,B	
Mt. Desert	Ellsworth-Bar Harbor LMA—A,B	A
Northwest Hancock Unorg	Ellsworth-Bar Harbor LMA—A,B	
Orland		A (6.0 average),B,C
Osborn	Ellsworth-Bar Harbor LMA—A,B	
Otis	Ellsworth-Bar Harbor LMA—A,B	
Sedgwick		A (5.0 average)
Sorrento	Ellsworth-Bar Harbor LMA—A,B	
Southwest Harbor	Ellsworth-Bar Harbor LMA—A,B	A

Sullivan	Ellsworth-Bar Harbor LMA—A,B	A,B
Surry	Ellsworth-Bar Harbor LMA—A,B	
Tremont	Ellsworth-Bar Harbor LMA—A,B	A,B
Trenton	Ellsworth-Bar Harbor LMA—A,B	
Waltham	Ellsworth-Bar Harbor LMA—A,B	
Winter Harbor	Ellsworth-Bar Harbor LMA—A,B	
Kennebec County		
Albion		A (4.95 average)
Benton		A (5.45 average)
Clinton		A (6.75 average),B,C,D
Gardiner		A (6.2 average),B,C,D
Monmouth		A (5.1 average)
Mount Vernon		A (5.0 average)
Readfield		A, (5.75 average) B,C
Vienna		A (7.3 average),B,C,D
Oxford County		A,B,C,D
Penobscot County		
Alton	Outer Bangor LMA—A,B	
Argyle	Outer Bangor LMA—A,B	
Bradford	Outer Bangor LMA—A,B	A,B,C,D
Carmel	Outer Bangor LMA—A,B	A,B,C
Charleston	Outer Bangor LMA—A,B	A,B
Corinth	Outer Bangor LMA—A,B	A,B,C
East Central Penob Unorg	Outer Bangor LMA—A,B	
Greenbush	Outer Bangor LMA—A,B	
Hudson	Outer Bangor LMA—A,B	A,B
LaGrange	Outer Bangor LMA—A,B	A,B,C,D
Levant	Outer Bangor LMA-A,B,C	
Newburgh	Outer Bangor LMA—A,B	
Bradley	Ellsworth-Bar Harbor LMA—A,B	A,B,C,D
Burlington	Lincoln-Howland LMA A,B,C,D	A,B,C
Carroll Plnt	Lincoln-Howland LMA A,B,C,D	B,C,D
Chester	Lincoln-Howland LMA A,B,C,D	
Edinburgh	Lincoln-Howland LMA A,B,C,D	

Enfield	Lincoln-Howland LMA A,B,C,D	
Howland	Lincoln-Howland LMA A,B,C,D	
Lakeville Plnt	Lincoln-Howland LMA A,B,C,D	
Lee	Lincoln-Howland LMA A,B,C,D	
Lincoln	Lincoln-Howland LMA A,B,C,D	
Lowell	Lincoln-Howland LMA A,B,C,D	
Maxfield	Lincoln-Howland LMA A,B,C,D	
Passadumkaeg	Lincoln-Howland LMA A,B,C,D	
Prentiss	Lincoln-Howland LMA A,B,C,D	
Seboeis Plnt	Lincoln-Howland LMA A,B,C,D	
Springfield	Lincoln-Howland LMA A,B,C,D	
Twombly Unorg	Lincoln-Howland LMA A,B,C,D	
Webster Plnt	Lincoln-Howland LMA A,B,C,D	
Whitney Unorg	Lincoln-Howland LMA A,B,C,D	
Winn	Lincoln-Howland LMA A,B,C,D	
Clifton		A (6.85 average), B,C,D
Corinna	Dexter-Pittsfield LMA A,B,C,D	
Dexter	Dexter-Pittsfield LMA A,B,C,D	
Etna	Dexter-Pittsfield LMA A,B,C,D	
Exeter	Dexter-Pittsfield LMA A,B,C,D	
Garland	Dexter-Pittsfield LMA A,B,C,D	
Newport	Dexter-Pittsfield LMA A,B,C,D	
Plymouth	Dexter-Pittsfield LMA A,B,C,D	

Stetson	Dexter-Pittsfield LMA A,B,C,D	
Dixmont		A (5.0 average)
Drew Plnt	Mill.-E Mill. LMA A,B,C,D	
East Millinocket	Mill.-E Mill. LMA A,B,C,D	
Kingman Twns	Mill.-E Mill. LMA A,B,C,D	A,B,C,D
Mattawamkeag	Mill.-E Mill. LMA A,B,C,D	A,B,C,D
Medway	Mill.-E Mill. LMA A,B,C,D	A,B,C,D
Millinocket	Mill.-E Mill. LMA A,B,C,D	A,B,C,D
North Penobscot Unorg	Mill.-E Mill. LMA A,B,C,D	
Woodville	Mill.-E Mill. LMA A,B,C,D	
Patten	Patten-Island Falls LMA A,B,C,D	
Mount Chase	Patten-Island Falls LMA A,B,C,D	
Stacyville	Patten-Island Falls LMA A,B,C,D	
Piscataquis County		A, B,C,D
Sagadahoc County		
Bowdoin		A (5.25 average), B,C,D
Richmond		A (6.1 average), B
Somerset County		A,B,C,D
Waldo County		
Burnham		A (6.65 average),B,C,D
Frankfort		A (5.4 average),B,C
Freedom		A (9.75 average),B,C,D
Islesboro		A (6.1 average), B,C
Liberty		A (5.55 average), B,C,D
Palermo		A (5.35 average)
Stockton Springs		A (6.45 average), B,C,D
Thorndike		A (10.05 average), B,C,D
Troy		A (5.5 average), B,C,D
Washington County		A,B,C,D
York County		
Acton		C (5.7 average), D
Ogunquit		A (5.3 average), B,C,D
Sanford		A (4.9 average),B (5.2 average),C,D