



NORTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

Energy and Nutrition Division

John Hoeven, Governor
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February 25, 2003

Ms. Stella Nash, Acting Director
USDA, FNS, Mountain Plains Region
1244 Speer Boulevard, Suite 903
Denver, CO 80204-3585

Dear Ms. Nash:

Attached is a request for extension of Waiver Serial Number 970125 for four counties in North Dakota. The request is to waive the work requirements for ABAWDS's for Benson, Mountrail, Rolette and Sioux Counties. All four counties have been designated as Labor Surplus Areas (LSA's) based on data obtained and attached from the Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration (DOLETA) for federal fiscal year 2002.

Thank you for your support of these continuing waivers. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact our office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Arlene Dura".

Arlene Dura, Director
Food Stamp Program

Enclosures

WAIVER REQUEST

1. **Waiver Serial Number:** 970125
2. **Type of Request:** Renewal
3. **Primary regulation citation:** 7 CFR 273.24 (1)(f)(ii).
4. **Secondary regulation citation:**
5. **State:** North Dakota

Counties: Rolette; Benson; Mountrail; Sioux
6. **Region:** MPRO
7. **Regulatory Requirements:** 7 CFR 273.24 (b), 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.

7 CFR 273.24 (f)(1)(ii), 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 does not have a sufficient number of jobs to provide employment for the individuals.
8. **Proposed alternative procedures:** The State agency is requesting to exempt individuals residing in these counties from the work requirements 7 CFR 273.24(ii).
 - **Justification for request:** All four counties have been designated as Labor Surplus Areas (LSA's) based on data obtained and attached from the Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration (DOLETA) for federal fiscal year 2002.
 - **Anticipated impact on households and state agency operations:** None. This waiver application is for these counties: Rolette; Benson; Mountrail; Sioux
11. **Caseload information:** An estimated 550 household members would otherwise be subject to the work requirements. These counties all include Indian Reservations which are rural and have limited job development.

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12. **Anticipated implementation date and period for which waiver is needed:** May 1, 2003 for a period of 12 months ending April 30, 2004.
 13. **Proposed quality control review procedures:** No special review procedures required.
 14. **Signature and title of requesting official:**

Arlene Dura
Arlene Dura, Director
Food Stamp Program

15. **Date of Request:** February 25, 2003