



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE
P.O. BOX 2675
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 17105-2675

Feather O. Houstoun
Secretary

SEP 11 2002

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Mr. Joseph Weingart
Regional Director
United States Department of Agriculture
Food and Nutrition Service
Mid-Atlantic Region
Mercer Corporate Park
300 Corporate Boulevard
Robbinsville, New Jersey 08691-1598

Dear Mr. Weingart:

I am requesting an extension of Pennsylvania's current waiver (#2020019) of the work requirement, set forth in Section 824 of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (PRWORA), that amends Section 6 of the Food Stamp Act of 1977 (7U.S.C. 2015) that expires November 30, 2003. Specifically, I am requesting a waiver for the following counties:

Counties: Columbia, Crawford, Erie, Lawrence, McKean and Venango

In addition, I am requesting the following counties and cities be added to waiver #2020019:

Counties: Clinton, Fulton, Lycoming, Mifflin, Monroe, Somerset, Sullivan, Susquehanna and Tioga

Cities: Altoona, Erie, Reading and York.

The average unemployment rate for all of these counties and cities exceeded the average U.S. unemployment rate by 20 percent during the latest 24-month period.

As you know, Section 824 of PRWORA amends Section 6 of the Food Stamp Act of 1977 (7U.S.C. 2015) allowing for a waiver for certain Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents who reside in approved Labor Surplus Areas or areas in which the unemployment rate is 20 percent above the national average.

Attached are two spreadsheets and source documents showing the average unemployment rates for the aforementioned counties and cities. This unemployment data is compiled by Pennsylvania's Department of Labor and Industry, Center for Workforce Information and Analysis. This is from their publication Civilian Labor Force Data By LMA/County/MCD of Residence.

Thank you for your consideration of this waiver request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Feather O. Houstoun".

Feather O. Houstoun

Attachments