

Office of the Secretary
State Capitol Complex, Building 3, Room 206
Charleston, West Virginia 25305
Telephone: (304) 558-0684 Fax: (304) 558-1130

November 15, 2002

Mr. Joseph Weingart, Regional Director
Food Stamp Program
USDA, Food and Consumer Service
Mercer Corporate Park
300 Corporate Boulevard
Robbinsville, New Jersey 08691-1598

Dear Mr. Weingart:

Enclosed is West Virginia's waiver extension request for exclusion from implementation of Section 824 of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act (PRWORA) of 1996 (P.L. 104-193) for Able Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWDS) residing in counties with unemployment rates of 10% or more for 2003.

Statistics provided by the West Virginia Bureau of Employment Programs, Division of Labor and Economic Research, verify that 5 counties qualify for exclusion as having unemployment rates of 10% or higher.

If you have questions or concerns about any of the information provided, please contact Thomas Glass in the Office of Family Support at (304) 558-8290.

Sincerely,

Paul L. Nusbaum
Secretary

PLN:jb

Enclosures

OPTIONAL FORM 99 (7-90)

FAX TRANSMITTAL

of pages = 3

To <i>Jennie Nelson</i>	From <i>Ellen Thaler</i>
Dept./Agency <i>FA</i>	Phone # <i>609-259-5082</i>
Fax # <i>703-705-2486</i>	Fax # <i>609-259-5062</i>

NSN 7540-01-317-7368 5098-101 GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

WAVIER REQUEST - WEST VIRGINIA

1. **Waiver serial number:** 970036
2. **Type of request:** Extension
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. 104-193.
4. **Secondary regulation citation:** None
5. **State:** West Virginia
6. **Region:** MARO
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; did not participate in and comply with requirements of a program under Section 20 or a comparable program established by the state; or received benefits because they were exempt from these requirements.

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.

8. **Summary of waiver extension request:** The State is requesting to exempt individuals from 5 counties which have unemployment rates over 10 percent.
9. **Counties qualifying for exemption due to unemployment of 10 percent:**

Below is a chart listing the counties with unemployment rates of 10 percent or more, averaged over the first nine months of 2002 and the last three month of 2001. This information is compiled by the west Virginia Bureau of Employment Programs, Division of Labor and Economic Research. Calendar Year 2002 information is available by county on the Bureau's web site at: www.state.us/bep.

County	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Yr Ave.
Calhoun	9.8	12.6	14.2	23.0	21.3	19.5	16.3	13.3	12.1	12.5	12.2	12.0	14.9
Lincoln	7.0	7.1	7.3	10.6	11.4	12.4	11.9	10.7	11.2	11.2	10.9	10.1	10.2
Mason	9.2	9.5	10.4	12.1	13.1	11.9	10.6	14.2	16.2	16.3	15.0	11.8	12.5
Roane	8.6	8.7	9.4	13.2	13.4	12.6	11.4	10.4	9.3	9.3	8.2	9.4	10.3
Wirt	8.4	8.5	7.9	11.0	12.9	10.2	10.0	8.8	11.2	12.5	13.9	13.1	10.7

10. **Duration of waiver:** This waiver extension should be approved for a period of not less than one year.

11. **Signature and Title of Requesting Official:**

Paul L. Nusabum, Secretary
West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources

12. **Date of request:**

13. **Regional Recommendation:**

14. **Date of Submission by MARO:**



Jennie
NW 11/7/02 EPP

OCT 31 2002

**United States
Department of
Agriculture**

Food and
Nutrition Service

Mid-Atlantic Region

300 Corporate Blvd
Robbinsville, NJ
08691-1598

Date:

Subject: FSP - West Virginia ABAWD Waiver #970036

To:

Arthur Foley
Director
Program Development Division

Attached is a request from West Virginia to extend the ABAWD exemption for seven counties (Calhoun, Clay, Lincoln, Mason, Mingo, Roane and Wirt) based on these counties having unemployment rates exceeding 10 percent.

If you have any questions on this matter, please contact Ms. Ellen Thaler at (609) 259-5003.

Joe Weingart
JOSEPH WEINGART
Regional Director
Food Stamp Program

Attachment

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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.

8. **Summary of waiver extension request:** The State is requesting to exempt individuals from 7 counties which have unemployment rates over 10 percent.
9. **Counties qualifying for exemption due to unemployment of 10 percent:**

Below is a chart listing the counties with unemployment rates of 10 percent or more, averaged over the first eight months of 2002. This information is compiled by the West Virginia Bureau of Employment Programs, Division of Labor and Economic Research. Calendar Year 2002 information is available by county on the Bureau's web site at: www.state.us/bep.

County	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	YR Avg
Calhoun	23.0	21.3	19.5	16.3	13.3	12.1	12.5	12.1	16.3
Clay	10.9	11.9	11.2	10.9	11.9	11.3	10.9	9.4	11.0
Lincoln	10.6	11.4	12.4	11.9	10.7	11.2	11.2	10.8	11.3
Mason	12.2	13.1	11.9	10.6	14.2	16.2	16.3	15.1	13.7
Mingo	5.8	6.7	9.9	10.7	10.5	11.9	13.3	11.8	10.1
Roane	13.2	13.4	12.6	11.4	10.4	9.3	9.3	8.3	11.0
Wirt	11.0	12.9	10.2	10.0	8.8	11.2	12.5	14.0	11.3

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West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources

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