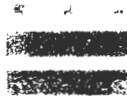


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GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES



Office of the Director

DEC 20 2007

Mr. William Kluxen
Acting Regional Director
USDA/FNS/MARO
Mercer Corporate Park
300 Corporate Boulevard
Robbinsville, NJ 08691-1591

H2
Sharon Cooper-DeLoatch
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Dear Mr. Kluxen:

Please accept this letter as a request for a renewal of the District of Columbia's (D.C.) waiver number 970118, which exempts able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWDS) throughout the District from the 36-month time limit on benefit receipt. Reflective of the challenging economy Food Stamp customers face in D.C., the District has once again been designated a Labor Surplus Area by the U.S. Department of Labor.

Thank you for your consideration of this waiver request. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Sharon Cooper-DeLoatch, Administrator, Income Maintenance Administration (IMA), at (202) 698-3900.

Sincerely,

Clarence H. Carter

Clarence H. Carter
Director

CHC/scd

cc: Sharon Cooper-DeLoatch, Administrator, IMA, DHS

WAIVER REQUEST

1. **Waiver serial number:** 970118
2. **Type of request:** Extension and modification
3. **Primary regulation citation:**
7 CFR 273.24 (b)
4. **Secondary regulation citation:**
CFR 273.24 (f)
5. **State:** District of Columbia
6. **Region:** MARO

7. **Regulatory Requirements:**

Under 7 CFR 273.24(b) individuals are not 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; participate in and comply with the requirements of a work program for 20 hours or more per week; or participate in and comply with requirements of a program under Section 20 or a comparable program established by the State.

Under 7 CFR 273.24(f), upon the request of a State agency, the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) may waive the applicability of the above provision for any group of individuals in the State if the FNS 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, the FNS will approve two-year State agency waivers under limited circumstances, targeting areas that qualified for waivers for two consecutive past years. In order to be eligible for a two-year waiver, the area must meet at least one of the following criteria indicating that the area has experienced and will probably continue chronic high unemployment: an unemployment rate greater than 10 percent for the two-year period immediately prior to the request; designation as a Labor Surplus Area (LSA) by the Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration (DOLETA) for a minimum of two consecutive fiscal years (the year of the request and the fiscal year prior to the request); or an unemployment rate greater than 20 percent above the national average for

a 36-month period, ending no earlier than three months prior to the request.

8. Description of the proposed alternative procedures:

The District of Columbia is seeking a 24-month waiver because the District has been designated a Labor Surplus Area (LSA) by the United States Department of Labor for both fiscal years 2007 and 2008.

9. Justification for request:

As stated in number 8 above, the District has been designated a Labor Surplus Area for two consecutive fiscal years, including the current fiscal year.

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.

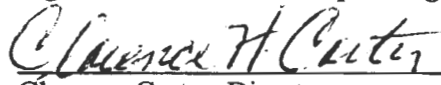
11. Anticipated implementation date and time period for which waiver is needed:

The District is requesting a two-year waiver from March 1, 2008 through February 28, 2010.

12. Proposed quality control review procedures:

There are no special quality control procedures needed in conjunction with this waiver.

13. Signature and title of requesting official:


Clarence Carter, Director

14. Date of request:

12/20/07