

WAIVER REQUEST

1. **Waiver serial number:**
2010190
2. **Type of request:**
Modification and 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:**
Idaho
6. **Region:**
Western
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.
8. **Proposed procedures:**
The State of Idaho requests a modification and extension of waiver 2010190 to exempt from the work requirements individuals residing in sixteen counties within the state. The State seeks waivers for contiguous counties that are eligible based on aggregate average unemployment rates of at least 20 percent above the national average during January 2005 through December 2006, during which the national average unemployment rate plus 20 percent was 5.8.

Combined Counties

Area	Unemployment Rate, JAN 2005 – DEC 2006	Area	Unemployment Rate, JAN 2005 – DEC 2006
Adams County	7.3	Custer County	4.6
Benewah County	7.4	Idaho County	6.4
Boise County	4.0	Lemhi County	5.8
Bonner County	4.8	Lewis County	3.3
Boundary County	7.5	Payette County	6.2
Butte County	4.6	Shoshone County	7.6
Clark County	4.4	Valley County	4.4
Clearwater County	8.8	Washington County	4.9
		Total for sub-region	5.8

Adams, Benewah, Boundary, Clearwater, Idaho, Lemhi, Payette, and Shoshone Counties qualify based on having average unemployment rates of at least 20 percent above the national average during January 2005 through December 2006. Boise, Bonner, Butte, Clark, Custer, Lewis, Valley, and Washington Counties qualify based on the area's aggregate average unemployment rate, which is at least 20 percent above the national average during January 2005 through December 2006.

In addition, the State is requesting to exempt residents in the Coeur d'Alene Reservation, Fort Hall Reservation, and Nez Perce Reservation based on having average unemployment rates of at least 20 percent above the national average during January 2005 through December 2006.

Area	Unemployment Rate, JAN 2005 – DEC 2006
Coeur d'Alene Reservation	7.2
Fort Hall Reservation	13.4
Nez Perce Reservation	11.9

9. Justification for request:

The 16 counties and 3 reservations listed have an average unemployment rate of at least 20 percent above the national average or are part of a contiguous sub-region that has an aggregate average unemployment rate of at least 20 percent above the national average during a recent twenty-four month period. All of the raw data supporting our figures come from the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) website.

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, characteristic, and quality control error rate for affected portion:

The caseload for these areas, as of *DATE*, represent *XX*% 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:

The State is requesting a one-year waiver from April 1, 2008 through March 31, 2009.

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:

Russell S. Barton

15. Date of request:
