



Rod R. Blagojevich, Governor

Illinois Department of Human Services

Carol L. Adams, Ph.D., Secretary

100 South Grand Avenue, East • Springfield, Illinois 62762
401 South Clinton Street • Chicago, Illinois 60607

November 19, 2007

Mr. Tim English, Director
Food Stamp Program
Midwest Region
Food and Nutrition Service
United States Department of Agriculture
77 W. Jackson Blvd., 20th Floor
Chicago, IL 60604-3507

Dear Mr. English:

We are revising our previous waiver request for approval under Section 6(o) of the Food Stamp Act, as amended by Section 824 of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity and Reconciliation Act of 1996 (PRWORA). This waiver is for specific geographic areas to be effective March 1, 2008 and remain in effect through February 28, 2010.

Based on our analysis, 2 counties and 13 cities in Illinois qualify for 2-year waivers from the time limit for 18 to 49 year olds in the revised data. An additional 182 municipalities are eligible for 2-year waivers. These areas can be waived because they had unemployment rates more than 20% above the national average during a recent 36-month period.

We have attached data prepared by the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities for the period 09/2004 – 08/2007 that supports the two-year waiver request for two counties and 11 cities. We have also attached data from the Illinois Department of Employment Securities for the period 10/2004 – 09/2007 that supports the two-year waiver request for two additional metro Cook areas, South Holland and Hanover Park, as well as 182 municipalities with population less than 25,000.

Please contact Mark Bortmess at (217) 782-1239 if there are any questions about this request. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Jan Freeman, State Food Stamp Director
Human Capital Development

Attachments

Cc: Marva Arnold
Barb Payne
Alan Rebok
Susan Holzer
Kate McAtee
Mark Bortmess