

FAMILY INVESTMENT ADMINISTRATION

Martin O'Malley
Governor

Anthony Brown
Lt. Governor

Brenda Donald
Secretary

November 19, 2007

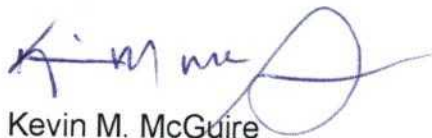
Connie Mikell
Acting Regional Director, Food Stamp Program
Food and Nutrition Service
United States Department of Agriculture
Mercer Corporate Park
300 Corporate Boulevard
Robbinsville NJ 08891-1598

Dear Ms. Mikell:

Attached is Maryland's request to extend and modify the waivers that exempt certain jurisdictions from the work requirements for able-bodied adults without dependents. The waiver request was completed with the help of the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. If you have any questions, please contact me at (410) 767-7338. You may also call Rosemary Malone at (410) 767-7949.

Sincerely,



Kevin M. McGuire
Executive Director

Enclosure

cc: Rosemary Malone
Louis Curry
Kay Finegan

bcc: John Huegelmeier
Vince Kilduff
Rick McClendon

WAIVER REQUEST

1. **Waiver serial number:** 2060034
2. **Type of request:** Modification and 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:** CFR 273.24 (f)(3)(iii)
5. **State:** Maryland
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.

8. Description of the proposed alternative procedures:

The State of Maryland is requesting a 1-yr waiver for 2 counties and 1 city in the State based on having an average unemployment rate of at least 20% above the national average during June 2005 – May 2007. The national average unemployment rate plus twenty percent during June 2005 – May 2007 was 5.6.

AREA	UNEMPLOYMENT RATE JUNE 2005 – MAY 2007
Allegany County	5.8
Dorchester County	5.6
Baltimore City	6.4

9. Justification for request:

As stated in number 8 above, the areas listed above have an average unemployment rate of at least 20 percent above the national average during a recent 24-month time period. All of the raw data supporting our numbers that we have used are 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 caseloads for these areas, as of October 2007, represent 40 percent of the caseload for the state. We do not expect any impact on the quality control error rate.

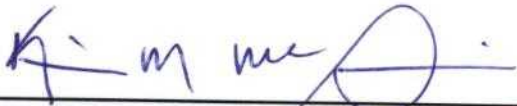
12. Anticipated implementation date and time period for which waiver is needed:

The State is requesting a waiver effective through February 28, 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:



Executive Director, Family Investment Administration

15. Date of request:

11/19/07

ABAWD EXEMPTIONS

2007	2008	Remote Designation
<u>ABAWD Exempt LSA or 20% over National Ave (per CBPP)</u> Baltimore City Somerset Worcester	<u>ABAWD Exempt LSA or 20% over National Ave (per CBPP)</u> Baltimore City Somerset (approved waiver through 2/09) Worcester (approved waiver through 2/09) Allegany Dorchester	Limited FSET in some or all. Limited transportation Allegany Garrett Somerset Washington Wicomico Worcester
<u>ABAWD 15%</u> Allegany Garrett Dorchester 47-49 years old	<u>ABAWD 15%</u> Garrett 47-49 years old	

4 Counties in Maryland Eligible for Waivers in FY 2008

Updated 29 October 2007

