



New Mexico Human Services Department

Bill Richardson, Governor
Pamela S. Hyde, J.D., Secretary

Office of the Secretary
P O Box 2348
Santa Fe, NM 87504-2348
Phone: (505) 827-7250; Fax: (505) 827-7203

April 8, 2008

Judy Barron
Regional Director
Southwest Region USDA/FNS
110 Commerce St., Room 5-C-30
Dallas, Texas 75242

Subject: Request of Consideration of Waiver Modification #2030008

Dear Ms. Barron:

The New Mexico Human Services Department, Income Support Division respectfully requests consideration for the modification of existing waiver of Food Stamp Able Bodied Adults without Dependents (ABAWD) work requirement regulations contained in the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act (PROWRA) of 1996, Section 824. Section 6(o) of the Food Stamp Program as amended by Section 824 of PROWRA, 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 three months (consecutive or otherwise), during which the individual did not work 20 hours or more per week; or did not participate in and comply with the requirements of a program under Section 20 or a comparable program established by the state.

New Mexico is currently in operation under wavier number 2030008. The modification to the waiver would cover 19 counties in the state. The waiver will include the Cañoncito Chapter of the Navajo Nation, Cochiti Pueblo, Isleta Pueblo, Jemez Pueblo, Nambe Pueblo, Pojoaque Pueblo, San Felipe Pueblo, San Ildefonso Pueblo, Sandia Pueblo, Santa Ana Pueblo, Santa Clara Pueblo, Santo Domingo Pueblo, Tesuque Pueblo and Zia Pueblo. The following counties are excluded from the waiver Bernalillo, Curry, De Baca, Eddy, Harding, Hidalgo, Lea, Los Alamos, Otero, Roosevelt, San Juan, San Miguel, Sandoval, Santa Fe and Union Counties.

Under 7 CFR 273.24(f)(2)(ii)(ii) states that to support the claim of lack of sufficient jobs, a State may submit evidence that an area: is designated as a Labor Surplus Area (LSA) by the Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration...*and*...that states may submit evidence that an area has a 24-month average unemployment rate 20 percent above the national average for the same 24-month period.

New Mexico Human Services Department is requesting approval based on general population data from January 2005 through December 2006 and Native American information based on the 2000 United States Census Data.

Thank you for your consideration of this waiver modification request.

If you or your staff has any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Vida Tapia-Sanchez, Federal Program Manager at (505) 827-7219 or Sandra Bivens, Food Stamp Program Manager at 505-827-1326.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Katie Falls". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Katie" being more prominent than the last name "Falls".

Katie Falls, Deputy Secretary
New Mexico Human Services Department

cc: Vernzel Mosby Byrd, Southwest Regional USDA/FNS
David Short, Southwest Regional USDA/FNS