

WAIVER REQUEST

1. **Waiver serial number:**
2000039
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:**
Oregon
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%, or does not have a sufficient number of jobs to provide employment for the individuals.

In addition, 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% 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% above the national average for a 36-month period, ending no earlier than three months prior to the request.

8. Proposed procedures:

Oregon is seeking a 2-year statewide waiver from Section 6(o) of the Food Stamp Act, based on having a 36-month unemployment rate that is 20% above the national average. The aggregate average unemployment rate for all 36 of Oregon's counties during December 2004 through November 2007 was 5.7; this is 20% greater than the national unemployment rate for the same time period. During this period, the national average unemployment rate plus 20% was 5.7.

Area	Unemployment Rate, DEC 2004 – NOV 2007	Area	Unemployment Rate, DEC 2004 – NOV 2007
Baker County	6.8	Lake County	7.9
Benton County	4.6	Lane County	5.7
Clackamas County	5.0	Lincoln County	6.3
Clatsop County	5.2	Linn County	6.9
Columbia County	6.4	Malheur County	7.1
Coos County	7.1	Marion County	6.0
Crook County	6.5	Morrow County	6.7
Curry County	6.9	Multnomah County	5.5
Deschutes County	5.1	Polk County	5.3
Douglas County	7.9	Sherman County	6.2
Gilliam County	5.2	Tillamook County	5.7
Grant County	8.9	Umatilla County	7.0
Harney County	8.2	Union County	6.2
Hood River County	5.6	Wallowa County	6.9
Jackson County	5.9	Wasco County	6.0
Jefferson County	6.2	Washington County	4.7
Josephine County	7.1	Wheeler County	6.4
Klamath County	7.2	Yamhill County	5.5
		TOTAL	5.7

26 Counties: Baker, Columbia, Coos, Crook, Curry, Douglas, Grant, Harney, Jackson, Jefferson, Josephine, Klamath, Lake, Lane, Lincoln, Linn, Malheur, Marino, Morrow, Sherman, Tillamook, Umatilla, Union, Wallowa, Wasco, and Wheeler Counties qualify based on having average unemployment rates that are at least 20% above the national average during December 2004 through November 2007.

10 Counties: Benton, Clackamas, Clatsop, Deschutes, Gilliam, Hood River, Multnomah, Polk, Washington, and Yamhill Counties qualify based on the area's aggregate average unemployment rate which is at least 20% above the national average during December 2004 through November 2007.

9. Justification for request:

As stated in number 8 above, the areas listed above have an average unemployment rate of at least 20% above the national average during a recent 36-month time period. All of the raw data supporting our numbers that we have used are from the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) website.

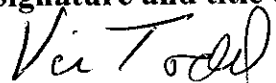
10. Anticipated implementation date and time period for which waiver is needed:

The State is requesting a two-year waiver from May 1, 2008 through April 30, 2010.

11. Proposed quality control review procedures:

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

12. Signature and title of requesting official:



Vic Todd, Administrator
Office of Self-Sufficiency Programs
Children, Adults and Families Division
Oregon Department of Human Services

13. Date of request:

February 20, 2008