



State of Utah

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GARY R. HERBERT
Lieutenant Governor

Cindy & Julie
2-21-08
**Department of
Workforce Services**

KRISTEN COX
Executive Director

CHRISTOPHER W. LOVE
Deputy Director

GREGORY B. GARDNER
Deputy Director

February 15, 2008

OSD-RLC-001-08

Jody Cornwell, Regional Director
Food & Nutrition Service, USDA
1244 Speer Boulevard, Suite 903
Denver, CO 80204-3585

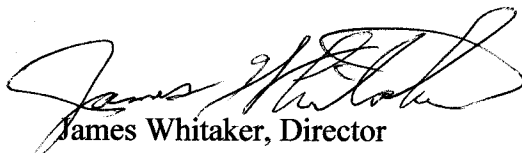
RE: Waiver Extension #970138

Dear Ms. Cornwell:

Attached is the waiver modification and extension request for the exempt county LSA policy. Utah is requesting the implementation date and time period to be May 1, 2008 to June 30, 2009. This request is being submitted prior to our current waiver end date, September 30, 2008, in order to adjust the waiver to be compatible with Utah's conversion to the new eligibility computer system. The conversion to the new eligibility system, Electronic Resource and Eligibility Product (eREP), will be completed in March 2009. The request to extend the end date by two months to June 2009 will allow Utah time to stabilize the new eligibility system before making policy changes for the next year.

Your consideration for the request to extend the implementation date will be greatly appreciated. If you have any questions, please contact Rebecca Curry at (801) 526-9374.

Regards,


James Whitaker, Director
Operations Support Division

Attachment(s)

CC: Kathy Link
Gina Stavros
Jennifer Meyer-Smart

WAIVER REQUEST

1. **Waiver serial number:**
970138
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:**
Utah
6. **Region:**
Mountain Plains
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 Utah requests a modification and extension of waiver 970138 to exempt from the work requirements individuals residing a sub-region consisting of four contiguous counties in the southeastern region of the state. This sub-region is eligible based on an aggregate average unemployment rate of at least 20 percent above the national average during March 2005 through February 2007, when the national average unemployment rate plus 20 percent was 5.7.

Sub-region of southeastern region

Area	Unemployment Rate, FEB 04-JAN 06	Area	Unemployment Rate, FEB 04-JAN 06
Garfield County	5.7	San Juan County	6.7
Grand County	5.3	Wayne County	4.7
		Total for Sub-region	5.8

Garfield and San Juan Counties qualify based on having an average unemployment rate of at least 20 percent above the national average during March 2005 – February 2007. Grand and Wayne Counties qualify based on the area's aggregate average unemployment rate, which is at least 20 percent above the national average during March 2005 – February 2007.

9. Justification for request:

The 4 counties listed are part of a contiguous sub-region that has an aggregate average unemployment rate of at least 20 percent above the national average during March 2005 – February 2007. All of the raw data supporting our figures come from the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) website. www.bls.gov/lau

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:

N/A. There are no quality control procedures involved.

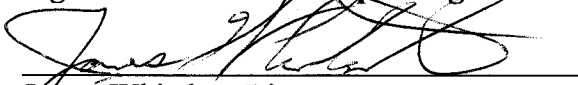
12. Anticipated implementation date and time period for which waiver is needed:

The State is requesting a 14-month waiver from May 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009. This request is being submitted prior to the current waiver end date, September 30, 2008, in order to adjust the waiver to be compatible with Utah's conversion to the new eligibility computer system. The conversion to the new eligibility system, Electronic Resource and Eligibility Product (eREP), will be completed in March 2009. The request to extend the end date by two months to June 30, 2009 will allow Utah time to stabilize the new eligibility system before making policy changes for the next year.

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:


James Whitaker, Director
Operations Support Division

15. Date of request: February 15, 2008

**AREAS IN UTAH THAT ARE ELIGIBLE FOR WAIVERS ON THE BASIS OF
MAR 2005 - FEB 2007
UNEMPLOYMENT RATES**

Step 1
Step 2
Step 3
Step 4

Please see worksheet entitled "Step 1" for monthly labor force numbers
Please see worksheet entitled "Step 2" for 24-month labor force totals
Please see worksheet entitled "Step 3" for monthly unemployed numbers
Please see worksheet entitled "Step 4" for 24-month unemployed totals

	from Step 2		from Step 4		Step 5	
	MAR 2005 - FEB 2007		MAR 2005 - FEB 2007		MAR 2005 - FEB 2007	
	Total labor force	Total number of unemployed	Average Unemployment Rate (unrounded)	Average Unemployment Rate (4 decimal places)		
Counties						
Garfield County	64222	3659	0.056974246	0.0569		
Grand County	120970	6379	0.052732082	0.0527		
San Juan County	115913	7737	0.066748337	0.0667		
Wayne County	32670	1536	0.047015611	0.047		
Total for Sub-Region	333775	19311	0.05785634	0.0578		
National Unemployment Rate	3,618,004,000	173,150,000	0.0478579	0.0478		
20% Threshold						

Source: Local Area Unemployment Statistics, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Dept. of Labor
Underlying data are available at www.bls.gov/lau/, and are attached.

Step 1		Step 7	
MAR 2005 - FEB 2007		MAR 2005 - FEB 2007	
Average		Average	
Unemployment Rate		Unemployment Rate	
(multiply by 100)		(one decimal place)	
5.69	5.7		
5.27	5.3		
6.67	6.7		
4.7	4.7		
5.78	5.8		
4.78	4.8		
	5.7		



U.S. Department of
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Data extracted on: December 13, 2007 (3:54:13 PM)
Labor Force Statistics from the Current Population Survey

Series Id: LNU01000000
Not Seasonally Adjusted
Series title: (Unadj) Civilian Labor Force Level
Labor force status: Civilian labor force
Type of data: Number in thousands
Age: 16 years and over

Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual
2005	147125(1)	147649	147745	148274	148878	150327	151122	150469	149838	150304	150239	149874	149320
2006	149090(1)	149686	150027	150209	150696	152557	153208	152465	151635	152397	152590	152571	151428
2007	151924(1)	151879	152236	151829	152350	154252	154871	153493	153400	153516	154035		

1 : Data affected by changes in population controls in January 2000, January 2003, January 2004, January 2005, January 2006, and January 2007.

Series Id: LNU03000000
Not Seasonally Adjusted
Series title: (Unadj) Unemployment Level
Labor force status: Unemployed
Type of data: Number in thousands
Age: 16 years and over

Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual
2005	8444	8549	7986	7335	7287	7870	7839	7327	7259	6964	7271	6956	7591
2006	7608	7692	7255	6804	6655	7341	7602	7086	6625	6272	6576	6491	7001

2007	7649	7400	6913	6532	6486	7295	7556	7088	6952	6773	6917		
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U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

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Phone: (202) 691-5200

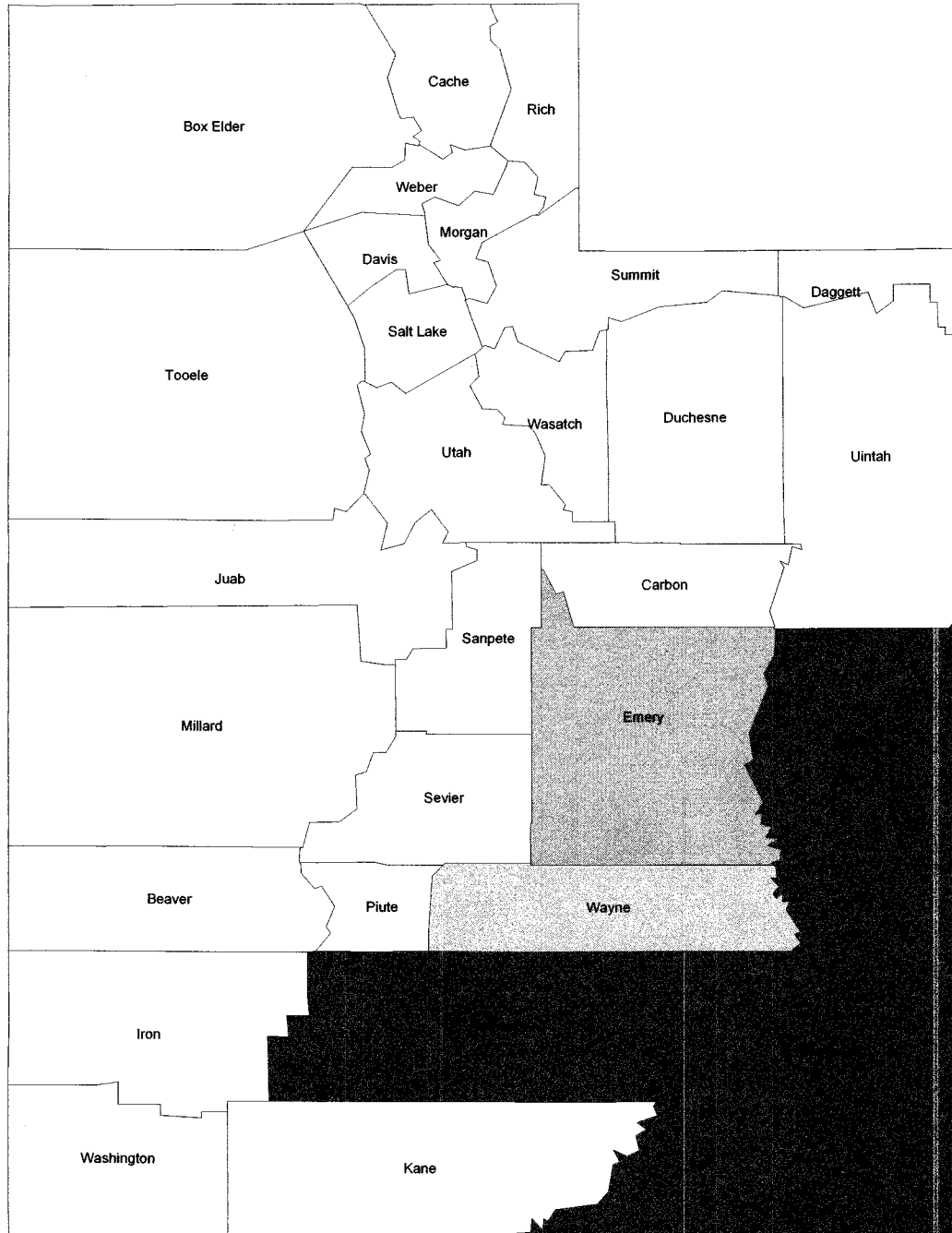
Do you have a [Data](#) question?

Do you have a [Technical \(web\)](#) question?

Do you have [Other comments](#)?

4 Counties in Utah are Eligible for Waivers in FY2008

Updated 14 December 2007



-  Eligible for Waiver Renewal in FY08 (3)
-  Newly Eligible for Waiver in FY08 (1)
-  No Longer Eligible for Waiver in FY08 (1)