



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

October 2, 2008

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:

Illinois is requesting a modification and extension of its existing waiver to exempt residents residing in the entire State from the work requirements of 7 CFR 273.24 due to having insufficient jobs based on the U.S. Department of Labor data that the State qualifies for extended unemployment benefits.

26 USC 3304 (Public Law 102-318) allows States the option of providing an additional alternative trigger for the extended benefits program, based on the State's seasonally adjusted total unemployment rate (TUR) for the most recent three months reaching at least: (1) 6.5 percent; and (2) 110 percent of such TUR for the corresponding three-month periods ending in either or both of the two preceding calendar years.

The Department of Labor's Trigger Notice No. 2008-31 shows the State's 3-month average total unemployment rate (TUR) was: (1) 6.8 percent and (2) 136 percent of the 3-month average for the corresponding period in the first year and 151 percent of the 3-month average for the corresponding period in the second year, making the State eligible for extended unemployment benefits.

We have attached Trigger Notice NO. 2008-31 State Extended Benefit (E.B.) Indicators Under P.L. 102-318 effective August 17, 2008 to the enclosed waiver request. If approved, we are expecting to implement from January 1, 2009 – December 31, 2009.

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

WAIVER REQUEST

1. **Waiver serial number:**
980017
2. **Type of request:**
Modification
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)(2)(ii)
5. **State:**
Illinois
6. **Region:**
MWRO
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:**

Illinois is requesting a modification and extension of its existing waiver to exempt residents residing in the entire State from the work requirements of 7 CFR 273.24 due to having insufficient jobs based on the U.S. Department of Labor data that the State qualifies for extended unemployment benefits.

26 USC 3304 (Public Law 102-318) allows States the option of providing an additional alternative trigger for the extended benefits program, based on the State's

seasonally adjusted total unemployment rate (TUR) for the most recent three months reaching at least: (1) 6.5 percent; and (2) 110 percent of such TUR for the corresponding three-month periods ending in either or both of the two preceding calendar years.

The Department of Labor's Trigger Notice No. 2008-31¹ shows the State's 3-month average total unemployment rate (TUR) was: (1) 6.8 percent and (2) 136 percent of the 3-month average for the corresponding period in the first year and 151 percent of the 3-month average for the corresponding period in the second year, making the State eligible for extended unemployment benefits.

9. Justification for request:

This request to exempt residents residing in the entire State from the work requirements of 7 CFR 273.24 due to having insufficient jobs is based on the State qualifying for extended unemployment benefits within the past 12 months.

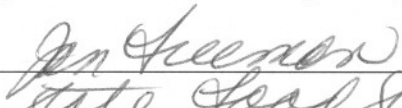
10. Anticipated implementation date and time period for which waiver is needed:

The State is requesting a one-year waiver from January 1, 2009 through December 31, 2009.

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:


State Food Stamp Director

13. Date of request:

10/24/08

¹ Extended Benefits Trigger Notices can be found at http://www.workforcesecurity.doleta.gov/unemploy/claims_arch.asp. Trigger notice 2008-31 was issued the week of August 17, 2008.