



Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Health and Human Services
Department of Transitional Assistance
600 Washington Street • Boston MA 02111

DEVAL L. PATRICK
Governor

JUDYANN BIGBY, M.D.
Secretary

TIMOTHY P. MURRAY
Lieutenant Governor

JULIA E. KEHOE
Commissioner

October 21, 2007

Robert Canavan
Acting Regional Administrator
Northeast Region, Food and Nutrition Service
10 Causeway Street, Room 501
Boston, Massachusetts 02222

Re: Commonwealth of Massachusetts 2009 ABAWD Waiver Request

Dear Mr. Canavan;

Enclosed is the 2009 ABAWD Waiver Request for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The Department is requesting to waive the work requirements for individuals residing in:

- a) Four counties and twenty-five cities and towns for a two-year period (January 1, 2009 to December 31, 2010) based on a thirty-six month average unemployment rate. These areas in Massachusetts had an average unemployment rate of at least 20 percent (of 5.8 points or higher) above the national average during August 2005 and July 2008.
- b) An additional fifteen cities and towns in seven areas for a one-year period (January 1, 2009 to December 31, 2009) based on a twenty-four month average unemployment rate. These areas had an average unemployment rate of at least 20 percent (of 5.5 points or higher) above the national average during January 2006 through December 2007.

Due to the layout and large size of documentation supporting this waiver request, I will send them separately in an email to FNS/NERO.

The Department estimates that half of the Commonwealth's potential ABAWD population will be waived. Approval of this waiver will: increase participation among some of our most vulnerable residents who are currently subject to the work requirements in identified areas and reduce administrative burdens on local office staff serving ABAWDs in the impacted cities, towns and counties.

Please contact me should you have any questions regarding this request.

Sincerely,

(SIGNED)

Phuoc Cao
Director, SNAP

cc. Mary Ann Ferris
Victor Vasquez

Enclosures