



Minnesota Department of **Human Services**

December 23, 2008

Tim English, Regional Director
Food Stamp Program – Midwest Region
Food and Nutrition Service, USDA
77 W. Jackson Blvd. 20th Floor
Chicago, IL 60604-3507

Attached is Minnesota's request to implement a statewide Able Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWDs) waiver effective January 1, 2009. The Department of Labor issued an alternative unemployment trigger on December 21, 2008. Since Minnesota is included in this trigger, we are requesting a one year waiver in accordance with provisions found at 7 CFR 273.24(f) based on insufficient employment opportunities.

Questions or clarifications about this plan should be directed to Steve Erbes at 651-259-7539 or Karen Nelsen-Huss at 651-431-4027 in my office.

Sincerely,

Charles E. Johnson
Assistant Commissioner
Children & Family Services

Attachments: Minnesota's Statewide ABAWD Waiver

WAIVER REQUEST

1. **Waiver serial number:** To Be Assigned
2. **Type of Request:** New
3. **Primary regulation citation:** 7 CFR 273.24
4. **State:** Minnesota
5. **Region:** Midwest
6. **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.

7. **Proposed Procedures:** Minnesota is requesting a new statewide ABAWD waiver. The Department of Labor's Trigger Notice No. 2008-49¹ shows the State's 3-month average total unemployment rate (TUR) was: (1) 6.1 percent and (2) 120 percent of the 3-month average for the corresponding period in the first year and 150 percent of the 3-month average for the corresponding period in the second year, making the State eligible for extended unemployment benefits. Any ABAWD's who have used their initial 3 out of 36 month period will be eligible for Food Support under this statewide waiver.

8. **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.

¹ Extended Benefits Trigger Notices can be found at:
http://www.workforcesecurity.doleta.gov/unemploy/trigger/2008/trig_122108.html
Trigger notice 2008-49 was issued the week of December 21, 2008.

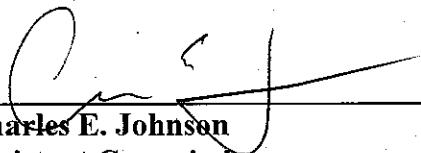
9. Anticipated Implementation Date and Time Period for which Waiver is needed:

Minnesota is requesting a one year waiver from January 1, 2009 through December 31, 2009.

10. Proposed Quality Control Review Procedures:

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

11. Signature and Title of Requesting Official:



Charles E. Johnson
Assistant Commissioner
Children and Family Services

12. Date: December 23, 2008