



United States Department of Agriculture

Food and Nutrition Service

Northeast Region

Date: SEP 26 2008

Subject: Rhode Island's Request to Modify and Extend Existing ABAWD Waivers to the Entire State

To: Art Foley, Director
Program Development Division
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

Attached is Rhode Island's (RI) request to modify and extend waivers 970051 and 2070033 that exempt certain individuals from work requirements in the entire State. In their request RI states that 26 USC 3304 (Public Law 102-318) allows the State the option of proving an additional alternative trigger for the extended benefits program, based on the State's seasonally adjust total unemployment rate (TUR). The Department of Labor's Trigger Notice No. 2008-30 shows the State is eligible due to the TUR eligible for extended unemployment benefits.

Please contact Beth Soukhanov at (617) 565-6403 if you have any questions concerning this waiver.

A handwritten signature in purple ink, which appears to read "Mary Ann Ferris", is located above the typed name.

Mary Ann Ferris, Director
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
Northeast Region

Attachment

SEP 12 2008



DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
Office of the Director

September 5, 2008

Ms. Mary Ann Ferris, Director
Food Stamp Program
United States Department of Agriculture
Food and Nutrition Service
Northeast Region
10 Causeway Street
Boston, MA 02222

Dear Ms. Ferris:

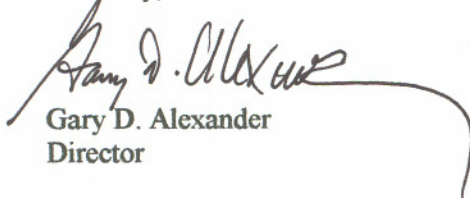
Rhode Island is requesting to modify and extend the waivers numbered 970051 and 2070033 that exempt certain individuals from the requirements of the "Able Bodied Adults Without Dependents" (ABAWDS) regulations.

This modification and extension request applies all the cities and towns in Rhode Island. The current waivers apply to Providence, Pawtucket, Central falls, Woonsocket and New Shoreham. The State of Rhode Island is requesting this waiver to be effective November 1, 2008.

Enclosed for your review is Rhode Island's waiver request, statistics provided by the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities from the Bureau of Labor Statistics and Rhode Island Department of Human Services information regarding the number of individuals subject to ABAWD regulations in Rhode Island listed by city and town.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter. If you have any questions, or a need for additional information, please call either Edward P. Sneesby, Associate Director of Program Operations at (401) 461-2424 or Ms. Nancy Pellegrino, Acting Administrator of Family and Adult Services at (401) 462-0993.

Sincerely,



Gary D. Alexander
Director

Enclosures

WAIVER REQUEST

1. **Waiver serial numbers:**
970051 and 2070033
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:**
Rhode Island
6. **Region:**
NERO
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:**
Rhode Island is requesting a modification and extension of its existing waivers 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

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TOTAL EXEMPT ABAND PERSONS:
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TOTAL EXEMPT ABAND PERSONS IN NEW
TOTAL EXEMPT ABAND PERSONS IN WOC
TOTAL EXEMPT ABAND PERSONS IN PAK
TOTAL EXEMPT ABAND PERSONS IN PRC
CASE COUNTS
TOTAL POTENTIAL ABAND CASES:
TOTAL EXEMPT ABAND CASES:
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