



State of Utah

JON M. HUNTSMAN, JR.
Governor

GARY R. HERBERT
Lieutenant Governor

**Department of
Workforce Services**

KRISTEN COX
Executive Director

CHRISTOPHER W. LOVE
Deputy Director

GREGORY B. GARDNER
Deputy Director

December 18, 2008

OSD-RC-006-08

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 our waiver modification and extension request for the exempt county LSA policy for FFY 2009. As stated in your letter received December 16, 2008, our current waiver has been extended through January 31, 2009, to allow time for a modified waiver request to be submitted with an effective date of February 01, 2009. We appreciate the extension and the time allowed to submit the revised waiver. However, Utah is unable to implement a change in waiver policy within such a short time to be effective February 01, 2009. This is because it takes close to six weeks to fully complete the system program changes, ad hoc reports, and notification / training of staff on the policy change. For this reason, Utah is requesting a one-year waiver period to be effective March 01, 2009 through February 28, 2010. This will allow for a more successful implementation of the change.

If you have any questions, please contact Rebecca Curry at (801) 526-9374.

Regards,

James Whitaker, Director
Operations Support Division

Attachments(s)

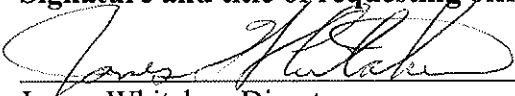
CC: Kathy Link
Gina Stavros
Jennifer Meyer-Smart

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 in San Juan County based on an having an average unemployment rate of at least 20 percent above the national average during June 2006 through May 2008, when the national average unemployment rate plus 20 percent was 5.6. San Juan County's average unemployment rate for the 24-month period of June 2006 through May 2008 was 5.6.

9. **Justification for request:**
San Juan County had an average unemployment rate of at least 20 percent above the national average during June 2006 through May 2008. All of the raw data supporting our figures come from the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) website.
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 one-year waiver from March 1, 2009 through February 28, 2010.
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:**
December 18, 2008

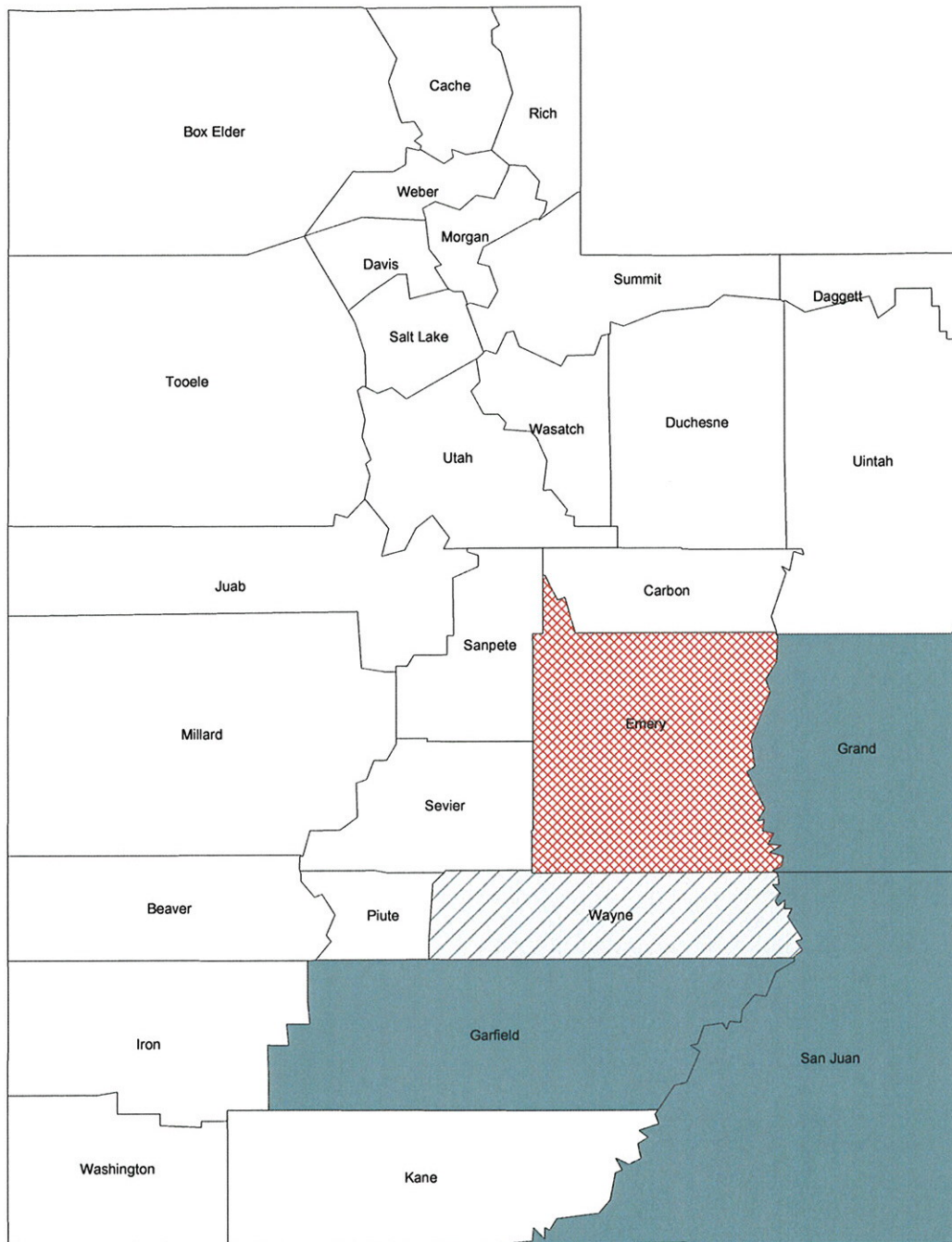
Series Id: LNU01000000													
Not Seasonally Adjusted													
Series title: (Unadj) Civilian Labor Force Level													
Labor force status: Civilian labor force													
Type of data: Number in thousands													
Age: 16 years and over													
Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual
2006	149090	149686	150027	150209	150696	152557	153208	152465	151635	152397	152590	152571	151428
2007	151924	151879	152236	151829	152350	154252	154871	153493	153400	153516	154035	153705	153124
2008	152828	152503	153135	153208	154003	155582	156300	155387	154509	155012			

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
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	7371	7078
2008	8221	7953	8027	7287	8076	8933	9433	9479	9199	9469			

Source: Current Population Survey, Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Dept. of Labor
 underlying data are available at www.bls.gov/cps, and are attached.

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)

**Local Area Unemployment Statistics
Not Seasonally Adjusted
San Juan County, UT**

Year	Period	labor force	employment	unemployment	unemployment rate
2006	Jan	4557	4176	381	8.4
2006	Feb	4649	4263	386	8.3
2006	Mar	4706	4388	318	6.8
2006	Apr	4840	4562	278	5.7
2006	May	4996	4727	269	5.4
2006	Jun	5248	4903	345	6.6
2006	Jul	4985	4668	317	6.4
2006	Aug	5156	4853	303	5.9
2006	Sep	5026	4801	225	4.5
2006	Oct	4925	4700	225	4.6
2006	Nov	4836	4584	252	5.2
2006	Dec	4689	4413	276	5.9
2006	Annual	4885	4587	298	6.1
2007	Jan	4678	4342	336	7.2
2007	Feb	4714	4414	300	6.4
2007	Mar	4802	4550	252	5.2
2007	Apr	4917	4688	229	4.7
2007	May	5089	4859	230	4.5
2007	Jun	5319	5053	266	5.0
2007	Jul	5172	4886	286	5.5
2007	Aug	5210	4923	287	5.5
2007	Sep	5158	4942	216	4.2
2007	Oct	5170	4935	235	4.5
2007	Nov	5045	4776	269	5.3
2007	Dec	4918	4600	318	6.5
2007	Annual	5016	4747	269	5.4
2008	Jan	4899	4541	358	7.3
2008	Feb	4891	4530	361	7.4
2008	Mar	4973	4639	334	6.7
2008	Apr	5020	4749	271	5.4
2008	May	5283	5009	274	5.2
2008	Jun	5556	5226	330	5.9
2008	Jul	5419	5080	339	6.3
2008	Aug	5437	5151	286	5.3
2008	Sep	5234(p)	4998(p)	236(p)	4.5(p)

