



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Food and
Nutrition
Service

Mountain
Plains
Region

1244 Speer Boulevard, Suite 903
Denver, Colorado 80204-3585

JUL 06 2010

To: Lizbeth Silberman
From: Jody Cornwell
Subject: SNAP - Request to Renew Waiver No. 990047 - South Dakota

Attached is a request from the State of South Dakota to renew Waiver No. 990047. Under this waiver, individuals in certain areas will be exempt from the Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents requirements of Section 273.24. The State proposes to exempt individuals who reside in Corson County, Dewey County, Walworth County, Ziebach County, Bennett County, Haakon County, Jackson County, Mellette County, Shannon County, Todd County, Buffalo County, Lyman County, Crow Creek Reservation, Flandreau Reservation, Lower Brule Reservation, and Rosebud Reservation for one year based on a 24-month average unemployment rate 20 percent above the national unemployment average for the areas as aggregate clusters.

We have reviewed the submitted data and recommend approval of the request through September 31, 2011.

If there are any questions concerning this request or if additional information is needed, please contact Greg Paulos by telephone at (303) 844-0346, or by e-mail at greg.paulos@fns.usda.gov.

Sincerely,

JODY CORNWELL
Regional Director
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

CC: Angela Kline and Patrick Lucrezio

MPSNAP SD 10-1-1 GP

WAIVER REQUEST

1. **Waiver serial number:**
990047
2. **Type of request:**
Modification and Extension -- *AMENDED 07/02/10*
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:**
South Dakota
6. **Region:**
MPRO
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.

In addition, 7 CFR 273.24 (f)(3)(iii) permits states to use "data from the BLS or the BLS cooperating agency that an area has a 24-month average unemployment rate that exceeds the national average by 20 percent for any 24-month period no earlier than the same periods the ETA used to designate LSAs for the current fiscal year."

8. **Proposed procedures:**
The State of South Dakota requests to waive individuals residing in a combined area of the state. This combined area is a contiguous part of an Economic Area as defined by the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) of the United States Department of Commerce or a contiguous combination of such sub-regions. A BEA Economic Area

consists of one or more economic nodes – metropolitan areas or similar areas that serve as centers of economic activity – and the surrounding counties that are economically related to the nodes. The main factor used in determining the economic relationships among counties is commuting patterns, so each economic area includes, as far as possible, the place of work and the place of residence of its labor force.¹

The State seeks a waiver for contiguous areas that are eligible based on aggregate average unemployment rates of at least 20 percent above the national average during January 2007 through December 2008, when the national average unemployment rate plus 20 percent was 6.2.

Combined Regions:

COUNTY	Unemployment Rate, JAN 2007-DEC 2008	COUNTY	Unemployment Rate, JAN 2007-DEC 2008
Sub-Region of Aberdeen Economic Area		Jackson County	5.6
Corson County	5.5	Mellette County	4.5
Dewey County	9.6	Shannon County	8.3
Walworth County	4.2	Todd County	6.2
Ziebach County	6.1	Sub-Region of Sioux Falls Economic Area	
Sub-Region of Rapid City Economic Area		Buffalo County	10.7
Bennett County	4.1	Lyman County	4.5
Haakon County	2.6	Total for Combined Economic Areas	
			6.2

Buffalo, Dewey, Shannon, and Todd Counties qualify based on having average unemployment rates of at least 20 percent above the national average during January 2007 through December 2008. Bennett, Corson, Haakon, Jackson, Lyman, Mellette, Walworth, and Ziebach Counties qualify for waivers based on the area's aggregate average unemployment rate, which is at least 20 percent above the national average during January 2007 through December 2008.

In addition, to the above counties, the State is requesting to waive the additional counties included in the Crow Creek, Flandreau, Lower Brule, and Rosebud Reservations based on average unemployment rates of at least 20 percent above the national average during January 2007 through December 2008, when the national average unemployment rate plus 20 percent was 6.2. Please note that the counties in the Pine Ridge Indian reservation (Bennett, Jackson, and Shannon) are included above so they are not listed in the table below. Buffalo (Crow Creek reservation), Lyman (Lower Brule reservation), Mellette and Todd (Rosebud Reservation) counties are also excluded in the tables below as they are included the unemployment rates above. The reservation unemployment rates were calculated by applying 2000 Census share ratios to county-level BLS data for January 2007 through December 2008. The following tables summarize the calculations:

¹ Please refer to the following Internet site for more information about BEA Economic Areas:
<http://www.bea.gov/regional/docs/econlist.cfm>

Indian Reservation Areas	JAN 2007 - DEC 2008 Unemployment Rate Calculation
Crow Creek Reservation, Hughes County part	6.4
Crow Creek Reservation, Hyde County part	9.3
Total Crow Creek Reservation	7.7
	JAN 2007 - DEC 2008 Unemployment Rate Calculation
Flandreau Reservation, Moody County part	18.6
Total Flandreau Reservation	18.6
	JAN 2007 - DEC 2008 Unemployment Rate Calculation
Lower Brule Reservation, Stanley County part	32.6
Total Lower Brule Reservation	32.6
	JAN 2007 - DEC 2008 Unemployment Rate Calculation
Rosebud Reservation, Gregory County Part	21.3
Rosebud Reservation, Tripp County Part	38.2
Total Rosebud Reservation	33.8

9. **Justification for request:**
As stated in number 8 above, the areas listed above have an average unemployment rate of at least 20 percent above the national average during a recent 24-month time period. All of the raw data supporting our numbers that we have used are 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:**
We currently have a caseload of 40,802 households consisting of 96,930 individuals receiving SNAP benefits in South Dakota. Of these individuals, 26% reside on reservation land. 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 October 1, 2010 through September 30, 2011.
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:**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Judy Toelle". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Judy Toelle, Administrator
South Dakota Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

- 15. Date of amended request: July 2, 2010**

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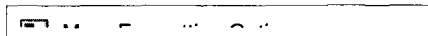
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Labor Force Statistics from the Current Population Survey

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**Download:**

Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual
2007	151924(1)	151879	152236	151829	152350	154252	154871	153493	153400	153516	154035	153705	153124
2008	152828(1)	152503	153135	153208	154003	155582	156300	155387	154509	155012	154624	154349	154287
2009	153445(1)	153804	153728	153834	154336	155921	156255	154897	153617	153635	153539	152693	154142
2010	152957(1)	153194	153660	153911									

1 : Data affected by changes in population controls.

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

Download:  Download as an Excel File

Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual
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	10015	10999	8924
2009	13009	13699	13895	13248	13973	15095	15201	14823	14538	14547	14407	14740	14265
2010	16147	15991	15678	14609									

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