



TEXAS HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION

THOMAS M. SUEHS
EXECUTIVE COMMISSIONER

May 12, 2011

Mr. Dwight Crudup, Regional Director
United States Department of Agriculture
Food and Nutrition Service
1100 Commerce St., Room 522
Dallas, Texas 75242-1005

Dear Mr. Crudup:

RE: Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program - Request for Extension of Waiver (#970057)

The Health and Human Services Commission requests an extension of the existing waiver of section 6(o) of the Food Stamp Act as amended by section 824 of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Act (PRWORA) of 1996 (P.L. 104-193), for the following twenty-seven Texas counties: Cameron, Cass, Dickens, Duval, Hidalgo, Jasper, Jefferson, Liberty, Marion, Matagorda, Maverick, Milam, Morris, Newton, Orange, Presidio, Red River, Reeves, Sabine, San Augustine, San Jacinto, San Patricio, Starr, Tyler, Willacy, Zapata, and Zavala.

The current waiver expires September 30, 2011. These twenty-seven counties qualify as high unemployment areas under criteria specified in 7 CFR 273.24(f)(i), which allows the Secretary to approve state requests for exemption from work requirements for individuals residing in areas with unemployment rates exceeding 10 percent. We request that this extension be for a one-year period beginning October 1, 2011, so as to coincide with the federal fiscal year.

Attached are documents from The U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics website at <http://www.bls.gov/lau/home.htm#data> outlining the most recent data used to determine the applicable county unemployment rate. It is our understanding that Food and Nutrition Services will consider this waiver using the employment data from this time period and source. The method used is in compliance with the United States Department of Agriculture memo FSP-SO-2004-14 dated May 7, 2004. Details are contained in the attached standard-format waiver request. In order to complete computer programming for these changes we need your response by July 1, 2011. We appreciate your consideration and prompt response to allow time to complete automation programming.

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Please let me know if you have any questions or require additional information. Boyd Graves, SNAP Policy Lead, serves as the lead staff on this matter and can be reached at (512) 206-4514 or by e-mail at Boyd.Graves@hhsc.state.tx.us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lynn W. Blackmore". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "L" and "W".

Lynn W. Blackmore
Associate Commissioner for Family Services

Attachments

cc: Dee Church, Director of Family Services Policy