

WAIVER REQUEST

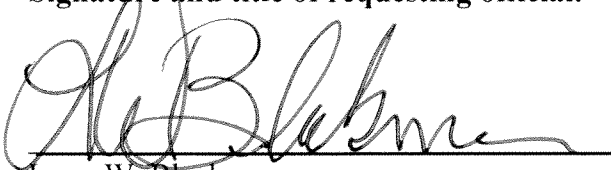
1. **Waiver serial number (if request is extension):** 970057
2. **Type of request :** Extension
3. **Primary regulation citation:** 7 CFR 273.24(f)
4. **Secondary regulation citation:** N/A
5. **State:** Texas
6. **Region:** SWRO
7. **Regulation Requirements:** 7 CFR 273.24 provides that no individual shall be eligible to participate in SNAP as a member of any household if, during the preceding 36 month period, the individual received SNAP 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; did not participate in and comply with the requirements of a work program for 20 hours or more per week; or did not participate in and comply with the requirements of a program under section 20 or a comparable program established by the State.

It also provides that, upon request of a State agency, the Secretary may waive the applicability of the above provision for any group of individuals in the State if the Secretary 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 alternative procedures:** Texas proposes to exempt from this requirement individuals who reside in counties that have an unemployment rate in excess of 10 percent. Historical unemployment figures were obtained from the U.S. Department of Labor Bureau of Labor Statistics web-site at <http://www.bls.gov/lau/home.htm#data> (Attachment A) indicate that the 27 counties listed on Attachment A had unemployment rates exceeding 10 percent from February 1, 2010 through January 31, 2011. Each year the State plans to revise the list of waiver counties with an annual effective date of October 1. Approval to request a waiver for additional counties may be requested by the State if circumstances warrant during the year.
9. **Justification for request:** This waiver is requested under 7 CFR 273.24(f). Approval of this waiver would allow individuals who reside in areas where unemployment rates are over 10 percent the opportunity to participate in SNAP without being required to meet unrealistic program work requirements.

10. **Anticipated impact on households and State agency operations:** Approval of this waiver would mitigate the adverse effects experienced by households in economically depressed areas by allowing them to continue receiving basic nutritional sustenance through SNAP. In such areas, these households would otherwise be faced with losing such basic support due to circumstances beyond their control since complying with work requirements in such local economic environments may not be a reasonable expectation.
11. **Caseload information, including percent, characteristics, and quality control error rate for affected portion:** In January 2011, a total of 4,231,796 individuals (1,693,378 households) received SNAP statewide. The 8,595 SNAP recipients in the twenty-seven counties who would be exempted by this waiver comprise 0.20 percent of the State's total recipients. The 7,645 households that would be exempted comprise 0.45 percent of the State's SNAP households. (The statistics in this section include statewide SNAP individuals and households, not estimates for TIERS.) Attachment B provides caseload data on the affected population for these counties.

There are no applicable quality control error rates to report for this waiver request.

12. **Anticipated implementation date and time period for which waiver is needed:**
The waiver is requested for a one-year period commencing October 1, 2011.
13. **Proposed quality control review procedures:** No special procedures will be necessitated by this waiver.
14. **Signature and title of requesting official:**

Lynn W. Blackmore
Associate Commissioner
Office of Family Services
15. **Date of request:** May 12, 2011

Attachment A

Cameron			
Year	Period	labor force	unemployment
2010	Feb	156982	17515
2010	Mar	157404	17217
2010	Apr	156965	16494
2010	May	157175	16558
2010	Jun	158648	18073
2010	Jul	159659	18117
2010	Aug	157906	18050
2010	Sep	157455	17400
2010	Oct	157769	17400
2010	Nov	159395	18641
2010	Dec	159339	18719
2011	Jan	159292	19871
Total		1897989	214055

$$214055/1897989 = .1127 \times 100 = 11.27$$

11.3% unemployment

Cass			
Year	Period	labor force	unemployment
2010	Feb	13334	1589
2010	Mar	13502	1589
2010	Apr	13575	1471
2010	May	13461	1433
2010	Jun	13569	1509
2010	Jul	13499	1479
2010	Aug	13415	1439
2010	Sep	13548	1384
2010	Oct	13564	1388
2010	Nov	13498	1444
2010	Dec	13550	1424
2011	Jan	13469	1534
Total		161984	17683

$$17683/161984 = .1091 \times 100 = 10.91$$

10.9% unemployment

Dickens			
Year	Period	labor force	unemployment
2010	Feb	955	82
2010	Mar	982	88
2010	Apr	996	88
2010	May	969	81
2010	Jun	1018	86
2010	Jul	995	92
2010	Aug	1014	123
2010	Sep	1005	121
2010	Oct	988	114
2010	Nov	993	129
2010	Dec	996	135
2011	Jan	1003	160
Total		11914	1299

$$1299/11914 = .1090 \times 100 = 10.90$$

10.9% unemployment

Duval			
Year	Period	labor force	unemployment
2010	Feb	5269	627
2010	Mar	5324	632
2010	Apr	5329	589
2010	May	5322	580
2010	Jun	5434	618
2010	Jul	5365	603
2010	Aug	5314	582
2010	Sep	5325	567
2010	Oct	5276	564
2010	Nov	5308	582
2010	Dec	5287	563
2011	Jan	5287	584
Total		63840	7091

$$7091/63840 = .1110 \times 100 = 11.10$$

11.1% unemployment

Hidalgo			
Year	Period	labor force	unemployment
2010	Feb	306145	36409
2010	Mar	306103	35963
2010	Apr	305154	33412
2010	May	305279	33991
2010	Jun	306170	36970
2010	Jul	298449	37147
2010	Aug	301848	36977
2010	Sep	303964	35162
2010	Oct	306879	34849
2010	Nov	310585	37482
2010	Dec	311887	38146
2011	Jan	312680	40006
Total		3675143	436514

$$436514/3675143 = .1187 \times 100 = 11.87$$

11.9% unemployment

Jasper			
Year	Period	labor force	unemployment
2010	Feb	15934	1865
2010	Mar	15935	1859
2010	Apr	15912	1754
2010	May	15946	1781
2010	Jun	16043	1860
2010	Jul	15886	1814
2010	Aug	15819	1789
2010	Sep	15801	1784
2010	Oct	15734	1730
2010	Nov	15888	1823
2010	Dec	15946	1892
2011	Jan	15871	2018
Total		190715	21969

$$21969/190715 = .1151 \times 100 = 11.51$$

11.5% unemployment

Jefferson			
Year	Period	labor force	unemployment
2010	Feb	116941	12692
2010	Mar	117265	12918
2010	Apr	116948	12339
2010	May	117180	12453
2010	Jun	117743	13136
2010	Jul	118898	12948
2010	Aug	118364	12850
2010	Sep	117909	12651
2010	Oct	117882	12576
2010	Nov	118963	13440
2010	Dec	119498	13606
2011	Jan	119317	14371
Total		1416908	155980

$$155980/1416908 = .1100 \times 100 = 11.00$$

11.0% unemployment

Liberty			
Year	Period	labor force	unemployment
2010	Feb	31770	3571
2010	Mar	31824	3548
2010	Apr	32007	3454
2010	May	32100	3569
2010	Jun	32100	3635
2010	Jul	32221	3622
2010	Aug	32144	3516
2010	Sep	32150	3435
2010	Oct	31977	3282
2010	Nov	32354	3612
2010	Dec	32426	3625
2011	Jan	32381	3839
Total		385454	42708

$$42708/385454 = .1107 \times 100 = 11.07$$

11.1% unemployment

Marion			
Year	Period	labor force	unemployment
2010	Feb	5140	615
2010	Mar	5195	578
2010	Apr	5212	535
2010	May	5172	512
2010	Jun	5219	522
2010	Jul	5223	538
2010	Aug	5171	530
2010	Sep	5186	498
2010	Oct	5117	477
2010	Nov	5112	495
2010	Dec	5119	483
2011	Jan	5049	501
Total		61915	6284

$$6284/61915 = .1014 \times 100 = 10.14$$

10.1% unemployment

Matagorda			
Year	Period	labor force	unemployment
2010	Feb	18220	2114
2010	Mar	18781	1999
2010	Apr	18940	1857
2010	May	18202	1908
2010	Jun	18499	2167
2010	Jul	18418	2231
2010	Aug	18213	2179
2010	Sep	18382	2053
2010	Oct	18229	1987
2010	Nov	18161	2091
2010	Dec	18127	2148
2011	Jan	18121	2261
Total		220293	24995

$$24995/220293 = .1134 \times 100 = 11.34$$

11.3% unemployment

Maverick			
Year	Period	labor force	unemployment
2010	Feb	23986	4152
2010	Mar	23925	4006
2010	Apr	23646	3693
2010	May	23239	3408
2010	Jun	23300	3462
2010	Jul	22697	3308
2010	Aug	22523	3224
2010	Sep	22754	3018
2010	Oct	22897	3116
2010	Nov	23245	3416
2010	Dec	23539	3508
2011	Jan	23973	4229
Total		279724	42540

$$42540/279724 = .1520 \times 100 = 15.20$$

15.2% unemployment

Milam			
Year	Period	labor force	unemployment
2010	Feb	11283	1222
2010	Mar	11384	1194
2010	Apr	11466	1122
2010	May	11313	1120
2010	Jun	11481	1183
2010	Jul	11533	1185
2010	Aug	11328	1179
2010	Sep	11357	1157
2010	Oct	11117	1136
2010	Nov	11021	1156
2010	Dec	10949	1117
2011	Jan	10784	1194
Total		135016	13965

$$13965/135016 = .1034 \times 100 = 10.34$$

10.3% unemployment

Morris			
Year	Period	labor force	unemployment
2010	Feb	6150	887
2010	Mar	6160	823
2010	Apr	6099	772
2010	May	6103	777
2010	Jun	6130	775
2010	Jul	6111	778
2010	Aug	5989	750
2010	Sep	6031	754
2010	Oct	5965	738
2010	Nov	6015	746
2010	Dec	6050	746
2011	Jan	6129	759
Total		72932	9305

$$9305/72932 = .1275 \times 100 = 12.75$$

12.8% unemployment

Newton			
Year	Period	labor force	unemployment
2010	Feb	5832	764
2010	Mar	5889	785
2010	Apr	5843	705
2010	May	5905	738
2010	Jun	5975	791
2010	Jul	5901	776
2010	Aug	5907	767
2010	Sep	5873	772
2010	Oct	5890	731
2010	Nov	5862	774
2010	Dec	5944	817
2011	Jan	5883	840
Total		70704	9260

$$9260/70704 = .1309 \times 100 = 13.09$$

13.1% unemployment

Orange			
Year	Period	labor force	unemployment
2010	Feb	41754	4491
2010	Mar	41877	4579
2010	Apr	41632	4241
2010	May	41728	4294
2010	Jun	41935	4544
2010	Jul	42606	4735
2010	Aug	42378	4663
2010	Sep	42241	4618
2010	Oct	41973	4332
2010	Nov	42333	4615
2010	Dec	42527	4677
2011	Jan	42484	4972
Total		505468	54761

$$54761/505468 = .1083 \times 100 = 10.83$$

10.8% unemployment

Presidio			
Year	Period	labor force	unemployment
2010	Feb	3886	692
2010	Mar	3941	724
2010	Apr	3889	647
2010	May	3888	666
2010	Jun	3977	729
2010	Jul	4022	706
2010	Aug	4050	712
2010	Sep	4074	715
2010	Oct	3945	611
2010	Nov	3934	648
2010	Dec	3985	685
2011	Jan	3952	691
Total		47543	8226

$$8226/47543 = .1730 \times 100 = 17.30$$

17.3% unemployment

Red River			
Year	Period	labor force	unemployment
2010	Feb	5948	658
2010	Mar	6051	663
2010	Apr	6010	629
2010	May	5965	637
2010	Jun	6041	674
2010	Jul	6023	690
2010	Aug	5932	661
2010	Sep	6009	663
2010	Oct	5910	634
2010	Nov	5872	666
2010	Dec	5890	667
2011	Jan	5840	710
Total		71491	7952

$$7952/71491 = .1112 \times 100 = 11.12$$

11.1% unemployment

Reeves			
Year	Period	labor force	unemployment
2010	Feb	4764	565
2010	Mar	4781	530
2010	Apr	4737	493
2010	May	4722	492
2010	Jun	4831	558
2010	Jul	4797	545
2010	Aug	4793	515
2010	Sep	4802	488
2010	Oct	4775	486
2010	Nov	4757	493
2010	Dec	4773	478
2011	Jan	4796	477
Total		57328	6120

$$6120/57328 = .1067 \times 100 = 10.67$$

10.7% unemployment

Sabine			
Year	Period	labor force	unemployment
2010	Feb	3588	618
2010	Mar	3598	624
2010	Apr	3575	586
2010	May	3573	577
2010	Jun	3648	588
2010	Jul	3621	563
2010	Aug	3605	560
2010	Sep	3593	561
2010	Oct	3511	528
2010	Nov	3581	590
2010	Dec	3591	594
2011	Jan	3534	602
Total		43018	6991

$$6991/43018 = .1625 \times 100 = 16.25$$

16.3% unemployment

San Augustine			
Year	Period	labor force	unemployment
2010	Feb	3656	414
2010	Mar	3698	415
2010	Apr	3715	412
2010	May	3746	416
2010	Jun	3816	439
2010	Jul	3817	429
2010	Aug	3753	407
2010	Sep	3758	402
2010	Oct	3701	386
2010	Nov	3697	398
2010	Dec	3746	423
2011	Jan	3741	476
Total		44844	5017

$$5017/44844 = .1118 \times 100 = 11.18$$

11.2% unemployment

San Jacinto			
Year	Period	labor force	unemployment
2010	Feb	10297	1121
2010	Mar	10277	1076
2010	Apr	10277	986
2010	May	10247	963
2010	Jun	10276	1013
2010	Jul	10349	1043
2010	Aug	10421	1105
2010	Sep	10437	1093
2010	Oct	10365	1027
2010	Nov	10519	1166
2010	Dec	10545	1173
2011	Jan	10485	1197
Total		124495	12963

$$12963/124495 = .1041 \times 100 = 10.41$$

10.4% unemployment

San Patricio			
Year	Period	labor force	unemployment
2010	Feb	31539	3392
2010	Mar	31749	3302
2010	Apr	31738	3133
2010	May	31689	3294
2010	Jun	31672	3402
2010	Jul	31539	3321
2010	Aug	31304	3133
2010	Sep	31302	3046
2010	Oct	31379	3011
2010	Nov	31779	3340
2010	Dec	31750	3237
2011	Jan	31550	3368
Total		378990	38979

$$38979/378990 = .1028 \times 100 = 10.28$$

10.3% unemployment

Starr			
Year	Period	labor force	unemployment
2010	Feb	25844	5180
2010	Mar	25691	4990
2010	Apr	25291	4309
2010	May	25085	4234
2010	Jun	24933	4423
2010	Jul	24628	4283
2010	Aug	24762	4229
2010	Sep	24771	4067
2010	Oct	25257	4109
2010	Nov	25500	4429
2010	Dec	25912	4787
2011	Jan	26229	5110
Total		303903	54150

$$54150/303903 = .1781 \times 100 = 17.81$$

17.8% unemployment

Tyler			
Year	Period	labor force	unemployment
2010	Feb	8381	903
2010	Mar	8527	939
2010	Apr	8434	867
2010	May	8695	894
2010	Jun	8680	945
2010	Jul	8681	953
2010	Aug	8618	918
2010	Sep	8660	877
2010	Oct	8679	872
2010	Nov	8749	944
2010	Dec	8769	940
2011	Jan	8642	977
Total		103515	11029

$$11029/103515 = .1065 \times 100 = 10.65$$

10.7% unemployment

Willacy			
Year	Period	labor force	unemployment
2010	Feb	9068	1174
2010	Mar	9213	1142
2010	Apr	9232	1082
2010	May	9118	1087
2010	Jun	9172	1175
2010	Jul	9153	1192
2010	Aug	9111	1148
2010	Sep	9076	1096
2010	Oct	9267	1080
2010	Nov	9424	1169
2010	Dec	9386	1169
2011	Jan	9577	1266
Total		110797	13780

$$13780/110797 = .1243 \times 100 = 12.43$$

12.4% unemployment

Zapata			
Year	Period	labor force	unemployment
2010	Feb	5550	655
2010	Mar	5574	633
2010	Apr	5549	594
2010	May	5531	574
2010	Jun	5629	633
2010	Jul	5548	612
2010	Aug	5414	595
2010	Sep	5456	564
2010	Oct	5400	552
2010	Nov	5472	588
2010	Dec	5519	575
2011	Jan	5688	585
Total		66330	7160

$$7160/66330 = .1079 \times 100 = 10.79$$

10.8% unemployment

Zavala			
Year	Period	labor force	unemployment
2010	Feb	4145	662
2010	Mar	4119	626
2010	Apr	4078	586
2010	May	4050	590
2010	Jun	4101	648
2010	Jul	4022	706
2010	Aug	3910	704
2010	Sep	3920	611
2010	Oct	3936	580
2010	Nov	4013	587
2010	Dec	4062	606
2011	Jan	4065	662
Total		48421	7568

$$7568/48421 = .1562 \times 100 = 15.62$$

15.6% unemployment

Attachment B
SNAP Hardship Counties in Texas
Total Number of SNAP Childless 18-49 Yr Olds
January 2011

County	ABAWD Recipients	ABAWD Households
Cameron	1,834	1,618
Cass	139	124
Dickens	6	5
Duval	31	28
Hidalgo	3,247	2,824
Jasper	146	140
Jefferson	663	628
Liberty	273	239
Marion	31	31
Matagorda	253	242
Maverick	312	254
Milam	166	156
Morris	51	50
Newton	31	30
Orange	221	199
Presidio	13	12
Red River	40	36
Reeves	45	41
Sabine	35	31
San Augustine	33	33
San Jacinto	106	94
San Patricio	198	181
Starr	377	338
Tyler	64	56
Willacy	78	75
Zapata	8	6
Zavala	194	174
Total	8,595	7,645

Total Counties 27