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FAMILY SUPPORT DIVISION

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May 30, 2013

Cheryl Kennedy
Regional Director
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
USDA, Food and Nutrition Service
Mountain Plains Region
1244 Speer Boulevard
Denver, Colorado 80204-3585

Dear Ms. Cheryl Kennedy:

Please find attached a request to extend waiver 2070002 of regulations at 7 CFR 273.24. Missouri requests this waiver based on the Department of Labor's (DOL) Unemployment Insurance Service determination that Missouri meets the criteria for extended unemployment benefits based on insufficient jobs. The Department of Labor's April 28th EUC Trigger Notice No. 2013 – 15 shows that the State is eligible for the second tier of unemployment benefits.

This waiver, if approved, would permit Missouri to waive all counties from the able bodied adult without dependents (ABAWD) 18 to 50 year old work requirement policy.

We request your immediate consideration of the waiver request. If you have any questions regarding this waiver, please contact Jeannie Olson at (573) 751-3178 or by email at Jeannie.Olson@dss.mo.gov.

Sincerely,


Alyson Campbell
Director

AC/jm

Attachment

RELAY MISSOURI

FOR HEARING AND SPEECH IMPAIRED

1-800-735-2466 VOICE • 1-800-735-2966 TEXT PHONE

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STATE WAIVER REQUEST

1. **Type of request:** Extension
2. **Regulatory citation:**
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.
3. **State:** Missouri
4. **Region:** Mountain Plains
5. **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.

6. **Description of alternative procedures:**
Under SNAP regulations at 7 CFR 273.24(f)(2), a State can qualify for a 12-month statewide ABAWD waiver if the Department of Labor (DOL)'s Unemployment Insurance Service determines it meets the criteria for extended unemployment benefits as evidence of insufficient jobs. The Unemployment Compensation Extension Act of 2008 (P.L. 110-449), which was signed into law on November 21, 2008, introduced new criteria used by DOL for the extended benefits (EB) program. As a result, some States qualify for EB based on the criteria of the Emergency Unemployment Compensation (EUC) program, rather than the traditional EB criteria. States may be eligible for statewide waivers if the state is listed on the DOL Extended Benefits Trigger Notice as being "ON" extended benefits, regardless of whether the State qualified based on the traditional EB criteria or the revised EUC criteria*

The DOL began determining and publishing which states were eligible for the different levels of EUC in November 2008 on the EUC Trigger Notice. The criteria for EUC have been modified several times since its inception**, but currently to

qualify for the second tier of benefits***, states must have a three-month TUR of 6 percent or more.

The Department of Labor's EUC Trigger Notice No. 2013 – 15**** on April 28, 2013 shows the State's 3-month average total unemployment rate (TUR) was 6.7 percent, making the State eligible for at least the second tier of unemployment benefits.

7. Justification for request:

As stated in number 8 above, this request to exempt residents residing in the entire State from the work requirements of 7 CFR 273.24 due to having insufficient jobs is based on the State qualifying for extended unemployment benefits within the past 12 months.

8. Anticipated impact on households and State agency operations:

None, we are currently waived from ABAWD.

9. Caseload information, including percent, characteristics, and quality control error rate for affection portion:

As of January 31, 2013, there are 442,594 Food Stamp households in Missouri. There are estimated 33,916 individuals who would be impacted by this waiver.

10. Anticipated implementation date and time period for which waiver is needed:

The State is requesting a one-year waiver from October 1, 2013 through September 30, 2014.

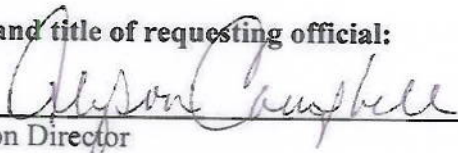
11. Proposed quality control review procedures:

There is no special quality control procedures needed in conjunction with this waiver.

12. State agency submitting waiver request and State contact person:

Missouri Division of Family Services
Jeannie Olson

13. Signature and title of requesting official:



Division Director

14. Date of request:

May 28, 2013

15. Regional office contact person (to be completed by FNS regional office):

*SNAP-ABAWD Statewide Waivers-New Criteria for Unemployment Insurance Extended Benefits Trigger guidance issued by FNS on January 8, 2009.

**<http://www.ows.doleta.gov/unemploy/pdf/euc08.pdf> lists the different modifications to the program. The most recent, the American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012 (P.L. 112-240), extended the expiration date of the EUC program to January 1, 2014.

*** Currently, all states are eligible for the first tier of benefits; Tier 2 requires a 6% TUR, Tier 3 requires a 4% 13-week Insured Unemployment Rate (IUR) or a 7% TUR, and Tier 4 requires a 6% IUR or a 9% TUR.

**** Extended Benefits Trigger Notices can be found at:
http://www.workforcesecurity.doleta.gov/unemploy/claims_arch.asp. This trigger notice is located at https://ows.doleta.gov/unemploy/euc_trigger/2013/euc_042813.html. Trigger notice was issued the week of April 28, 2013.

EUC 2008 TRIGGER NOTICE NO. 2013 - 15
EUC 2008 TRIGGERS UNDER P.L. 112-240
Effective April 28, 2013

State	13 Weeks IUR	3 months SA TUR	Tier Two Status	Tier Two Begin/End Date	Tier Three Status	Tier Three Begin/End Date	Tier Four Status	Tier Four Begin/End Date
Alabama	1.73	7.1	ON	11/21/2008	OFF	4/13/2013		
Alaska	5.87	6.4	ON	11/21/2008	ON	11/8/2009	ON	2/3/2013
Arizona	1.54	7.9	ON	11/21/2008	ON	11/8/2009		
Arkansas	2.75	7.2	ON	11/21/2008	ON	11/8/2009		
California	3.56	9.6	ON	11/21/2008	ON	11/8/2009	ON	11/8/2009
Colorado	2.10	7.2	ON	11/21/2008	ON	11/8/2009		
Connecticut	3.77	8.1	ON	11/21/2008	ON	11/8/2009	OFF	3/9/2013
Delaware	2.58	7.2	ON	11/21/2008	ON	4/7/2013		
District of Columbia	2.28	8.6	ON	11/21/2008	ON	11/8/2009		
Florida	1.58	7.7	ON	11/21/2008	ON	11/8/2009		
Georgia	1.78	8.6	ON	11/21/2008	ON	11/8/2009	OFF	1/12/2013
Hawaii	2.00	5.2						
Idaho	3.32	6.2	ON	11/21/2008	OFF	2/9/2013		
Illinois	3.70	9.3	ON	11/21/2008	ON	11/8/2009	ON	4/14/2013
Indiana	2.08	8.7	ON	11/21/2008	ON	11/8/2009		
Iowa	2.62	5.0						
Kansas	2.17	5.5						
Kentucky	2.31	7.9	ON	11/21/2008	ON	11/8/2009		
Louisiana	1.46	6.1	OFF	4/13/2013	OFF	1/12/2013		
Maine	3.37	7.2	ON	11/21/2008	ON	11/8/2009		
Maryland	2.64	6.6	ON	11/21/2008	OFF	1/5/2013		
Massachusetts	3.54	6.5	ON	11/21/2008				
Michigan	3.24	8.7	ON	11/21/2008	ON	11/8/2009	OFF	4/13/2013
Minnesota	2.93	5.5						
Mississippi	2.31	9.5	ON	11/21/2008	ON	11/8/2009	ON	4/14/2013
Missouri	2.27	6.7	ON	11/21/2008	OFF	1/12/2013		
Montana	3.86	5.6	OFF	1/12/2013				
Nebraska	1.56	3.8						
Nevada	3.15	9.7	ON	11/21/2008	ON	11/8/2009	ON	11/8/2009
New Hampshire	1.93	5.8						
New Jersey	4.00	9.3	ON	11/21/2008	ON	11/8/2009	ON	11/8/2009
New Mexico	3.10	6.8	ON	11/21/2008				
New York	3.25	8.3	ON	11/21/2008	ON	11/8/2009		
North Carolina	2.68	9.3	ON	11/21/2008	ON	11/8/2009	ON	11/8/2009
North Dakota	1.65	3.3						
Ohio	2.33	7.0	ON	11/21/2008	OFF	1/12/2013		
Oklahoma	1.44	5.0						
Oregon	3.51	8.3	ON	11/21/2008	ON	11/8/2009		
Pennsylvania	3.96	8.1	ON	11/21/2008	ON	11/8/2009		

Puerto Rico	4.36	14.4	ON	11/21/2008	ON	11/8/2009	ON	11/8/2009
Rhode Island	3.84	9.5	ON	11/21/2008	ON	11/8/2009	ON	11/8/2009
South Carolina	1.86	8.6	ON	11/21/2008	ON	11/8/2009	OFF	1/12/2013
South Dakota	1.10	4.3						
Tennessee	1.83	7.8	ON	11/21/2008	ON	11/8/2009		
Texas	1.53	6.4	ON	11/21/2008				
Utah	1.86	5.2	OFF	12/29/2012				
Vermont	2.89	4.4						
Virgin Islands	1.65	5.2	OFF	3/30/2013	OFF	3/30/2013	OFF	2/23/2013
Virginia	1.43	5.5						
Washington	2.87	7.4	ON	11/21/2008	ON	11/8/2009		
West Virginia	3.03	7.2	ON	11/21/2008	ON	9/23/2012		
Wisconsin	3.83	7.1	ON	11/21/2008	OFF	2/9/2013		
Wyoming	2.62	4.9						

All states are eligible for up to 14 weeks of First Tier benefits.

As of April 28, 2013, 37 states are eligible for Tier 2 benefits, 28 states are eligible for Tier 3 benefits, and 9 states are eligible for Tier 4 benefits.

As of April 28, 2013, maximum potential durations in the EUC 2008 program are 14 weeks in Tier 1, 14 weeks in Tier 2, 9 weeks in Tier 3, and 10 weeks in Tier 4.

As of April 28, 2013, Tier 1 has no trigger threshold, Tier 2 requires a 6% TUR, Tier 3 requires a 4% IUR or a 7% TUR, and Tier 4 requires a 6% IUR or a 9% TUR.

IUR reflects the 13-week period ending April 13, 2013.

TUR is the three month average, seasonally adjusted total unemployment rate for the 3-month period ending March, 2013.