

October 31, 2019

Ms. Julie Mikkelson
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
Midwest Region
United States Department of agriculture
Food and Nutrition Service
77 West Jackson Blvd., 20th Floor
Chicago, IL 60604-3507

Dear Ms. Mikkelson:

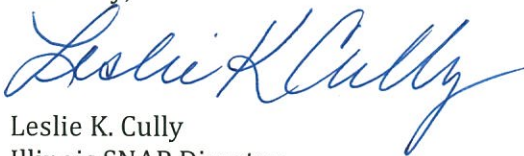
Illinois is requesting a waiver under Section 6(0) of the Food Stamp Act, as amended by Section 824 of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity and Reconciliation Act of 1996 (PRWORA). This waiver request is to exempt Illinois residents in 100 counties from the work requirement of 7 CFR 273.24, to be effective January 1, 2020 and remain through December 2020.

We believe Illinois qualifies for a waiver, with the exception of two counties, based on having an unemployment rate that is 20 percent above the national average for the 24-month period of May 2017 through April 2019. The national average unemployment rate for this time-period was 4.0 percent; Illinois' average unemployment rate for the same period was 4.8 percent, 20 percent higher than the national average.

We are not seeking a waiver for the other two counties due to the unemployment rate being below the national average unemployment rate. These counties had an average unemployment rate of 3.9 percent for the same 24-month period.

Attached please find documentation to support our request. If you have questions, please contact me. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Leslie K. Cully
Illinois SNAP Director
IDHS Family & Community Services

cc: Terri Vaniter
Martha Bradley