

APR - 5 1999

970186 and 970187

SUBJECT: FSP - Alaska - Request to Waive Section 6(o) of the Food Stamp Act,
as Amended by Section 824 of the Personal Responsibility and Work
Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996

TO: David Bailey, Acting Regional Director
Food Stamp Program
Western Region

This is in response to your March 10, 1999, memo forwarding the Alaska State Agency's request to modify and extend its waivers of Section 6(o) of the Food Stamp Act, as amended by Section 824 of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996. This section limits the receipt of food stamp benefits to 3 months within a 3-year period for able-bodied adults who are not working (or participating in a work program) 20 hours or more each week or participating in workfare. Our response is attached.

If you have any questions, please contact Moira Johnston of my staff at 703-305-2515.

Arthur Foley

Arthur T. Foley
Director
Program Development Division

Attachment

cc: Ed Speshock
Retha Oliver
Maurice Tracy
Bob Dalrymple - OAE
Mike Depiro - OAE
Civil Rights
All Regions (except WRO)

FCS:FSP:PDD:CPB:MJohnston:DRAFT:3/30/99:FINAL:4/2/99:va
DIR: I:CPB:970186 & 970187 ext memo - 99 /response - FY 99

Symbol	Surname	Date	Symbol	Surname	Date
PDD	M. Johnston	4/2/99			
DDI	J. Brown	4/2/99			

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Waiver Response

1. **Waiver serial number:** 970186 and 970187
2. **Type of request:** Modifications and Extensions
3. **Primary regulation 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.
4. **Secondary regulation citation:**
5. **State:** Alaska
6. **Region:** WRO
7. **Regulatory Requirements:** Section 6(o) of the Food Stamp Act, as amended by Section 824 of the PRWORA, provides that no individual shall be 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; 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 requirements of a program under Section 20 or a comparable program established by the State.

Section 6(o) of the Food Stamp Act, as amended by Section 824 of the PRWORA, also provides that, upon the 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. **Description of proposed alternative procedures:** The Alaska State Agency is requesting to modify and extend waiver number 970186, which exempts from the work requirement provision of Section 6(o) of the Food Stamp Act, as amended by Section 824 of the PRWORA, individuals for periods of 3-9 months on the basis that there is an unemployment rate of over 10 percent in those areas. The State agency has requested to modify this waiver by moving the following areas to waiver number 970187, which exempts individuals living in areas with insufficient jobs: Bristol Bay, Matanuska/Susitna, and Nome. It would like to add Skagway/Hoonah/Angoon. It would like to continue to exempt individuals residing in Denali, SE Fairbanks Haines, Kenai, Ketchikan,

Kodiak Island, Northwest Arctic, Prince of Wales, Skagway/Hoonah/Angoon, Valdez/Cordova, Wade Hampton, Wrangell/Petersburg, Yakutat, and Yukon/Koyukuk.

The State agency is also requesting to modify and extend waiver number 970187, which exempts for periods of 4-9 months individuals residing in areas with insufficient jobs. The State agency has defined areas with "insufficient jobs" to mean geographic areas that have been designated by the Federal Government as Labor Surplus Areas (LSAs). The State agency is requesting to modify the waiver by moving Skagway/Hoonah/Angoon to waiver 970186, which exempts individuals residing in areas where there is unemployment over 10 percent. It would like to add Bristol Bay, Matanuska/Susitna, Nome, and Lake and Peninsula. It would like to continue to exempt individuals residing in Bethel, Dillingham, and Fairbanks NSB.

9. **Action and reason for approval or denial:** We are approving a modification and extension of waiver no. 970186, based on unemployment rates that exceed 10 percent, and a modification and extension of waiver no. 970187, based on insufficient jobs, for individuals residing in the following areas:

970186		970187	
(10% Unemployment)		(Insufficient Jobs)	
expires 3/31/00		expires 3/31/00	
Census Tract	Exempt	Census Tract	Exempt Period
Period			
Denali	Oct - April	Bethel	Oct - June
SE Fairbanks	Oct - May	Dillingham	Dec - April
Haines	Nov - April	Fairbanks NSB	Jan - April
Kenai	Oct - April	Bristol Bay	Oct - April
Ketchikan	Jan - March	Matanuska/Susitna	Nov - April
Kodiak Island	Nov - Jan	Nome	Oct - June
NW Arctic	Oct - June	Lake and Peninsula	Jan - April
Prince of Wales	Dec - June		
Valdez/Cordova	Oct - April		
Wade Hampton	Oct - June		
Wrangell/Petersburg	Dec - April		
Yakutat	Dec - May		
Yukon/Koyukuk	Oct - June		
Skagway/Hoonah	Dec - April		
/Angoon			

10. **Regulatory or legislative basis for action:** These waivers are approved pursuant to Section 6(o) of the Food Stamp Act, as amended by Section 824 of the PRWORA, which allows the Secretary to waive the applicability of the work requirement provision in Section 6(o) 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 an insufficient number of jobs.
11. **Conditions and reasons:**
12. **Information required for extension:** Please submit supporting unemployment data that relies on standard BLS data and/or methods and data indicating a lack of sufficient jobs.
13. **Expiration date:** Waiver nos. 970186 and 970187 are approved for a period of 1 year and expire on March 31, 2000.
14. **Limitation on regional office approval of like requests:** These waivers are limited to the Alaska State Agency.
15. **Quality Control Procedures:** N/A
16. **Date of national office action:**
17. **Date of State agency's request:** February 26, 1999
18. **Date of regional office transmittal of response to State agency:**
19. **Actual implementation date:**