

Waiver Response

1. **Waiver serial number:** 970118
2. **Type of request:** Extension
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:** District of Columbia
6. **Region:** MARO
7. **Regulatory Requirements:** Section 6(o) of the Food Stamp Act, as amended by Section 824 of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act (PRWORA), P. L. 104-193, 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 District of Columbia State Agency is requesting an extension to its original waiver for food stamp recipients who reside in the District, based on its designation as a Labor Surplus Area (LSA) by the Employment and Training Administration of the Department of Labor.
9. **Action and reason for approval or denial:** We are approving this waiver extension based on the designation of the District of Columbia as a LSA by the Department of Labor.

10. **Regulatory or legislative basis for action:** This waiver is 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 insufficient number of jobs to provide employment for the affected individuals.
11. **Conditions and reasons:** N/A
12. **Information required for extension:** Please submit supporting unemployment data which relies on standard BLS data and/or methods.
13. **Expiration date:** This waiver is extended for a period of 1 year and it expires on February 28, 1999. Although the State agency has requested approval for a 2 year period, at this time, we are not approving waivers of this type for a period of more than a year. Labor markets fluctuate and the relationship to the period of high unemployment upon which this waiver is based may change significantly within a year.
14. **Limitation on regional office approval of like requests:** This waiver is limited to the District of Columbia State Agency.
15. **Quality Control Procedures:** There are no special quality control procedures needed in conjunction with this waiver.
16. **Date of national office action:**
17. **Date of State agency's request:** November 28, 1997
18. **Date of regional office transmittal of response to State agency:**