

FEB 18 1999

970118

SUBJECT: FNS - District of Columbia 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: Joseph Weingart, Director
Food Stamp Program
Mid-Atlantic Region

This is in response to the District of Columbia State Agency's request for an extension of waiver #970118 which exempted individuals residing in the District from the work requirement for able-bodied adults without dependents.

Our response approving the request is attached. If you have any questions, please contact Larry Tropp of my staff at 703-305-2437.

Arthur Foley

Arthur T. Foley
Director
Program Development Division

Attachment

cc: John Knaus, Fran Heil, Mike DePiro (OAE) Maurice Tracy, All Regions (except MARO), Civil Rights, CPB (circulate)

FCS:FSP:PDD:CPB:LTropp:final:2/18/99:va

FILE: ABAWDS

DIR: I:970118 - Memo (1999 extension)

Symbol	Surname	Date	Symbol	Surname	Date
PDI-1	Foley	2/18/99			
PDD:112	Heil	2/18/99			
PDI:112	Knaus	2/19/99			

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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. The State agency also provided data indicating a citywide unemployment rate of 8.3 percent for November 1998.
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. Since LSA designation is a sufficient basis for a waiver it was not necessary to consider the unemployment data.

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 29, 2000.
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:** February 3, 1999
18. **Date of regional office transmittal of response to State agency:**