

NOV 4 1998

970088

SUBJECT: FSP - Georgia - Request to Extend Waiver 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

TO: Crayton J. Lankford, Acting Regional Director
Food Stamp Program
Southeast Region

This is in response to the Georgia State Agency's request to exempt individuals residing in 53 counties and 5 cities from Section 6(o) of the Food Stamp Act, as amended by Section 824 of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996.

We are approving an extension for the 41 counties and 5 cities currently approved under waiver #970088 based on their designation as Labor Surplus Areas (LSA). Wilcox County had been approved based on unemployment over 10 percent (Waiver # 970087) and is now approved for extension as an LSA under waiver #970088. Finally, we are also approving for inclusion as newly designated LSAs, effective November 1, 1998, the counties of Bacon, Ben Hill, Clay, Crisp, Fannin, Grady, Mitchell, Sumter, Towns, Washington and Worth. Our response is attached.

If you have any questions, please contact James A. Walsh of my staff at 703-305-2531.

Arthur T. Foley

Arthur T. Foley,
Director
Program Development Division

Attachment

cc: Retha Oliver, Maurice Tracy, Mike Depiro (OAE)
All Regions (except SERO), Civil Rights, CPB (circulate)

FCS:FSP:PDD:Jwalsh:final:11/3/98:va

FC: ABAWD Waivers - Georgia

DIR: I:CPB/WAIVERS/970088 - EXTENSION - MEMO & GA-mod & ext

Symbol	Surname	Date	Symbol	Surname	Date
80121	Walsh	11/3/98			
80110	Walsh	11/3/98			
80110	Judy Depiro	11/17/98			

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WAIVER RESPONSE

1. **Waiver Serial Number:** 970088
2. **Type of Request:** Extension & modification
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 (PROWRA) of 1996, P. L. 104-193
4. **Secondary regulation citation:** N/A
5. **State:** Georgia
6. **Region:** Southeast
7. **Regulatory Requirement:** Section 6(o) of the Food Stamp Act, as amended, by Section 824 of the PROWA, 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, average monthly; did not participate in and comply with the requirements of a work program for 20 hours or more per week; did not participate in and comply with requirements of a program under Section 20 or a comparable program established by the State; or received benefits because they were exempt from these requirements.

Section 6(o) of the Food Stamp Act, as amended by Section 824 of the PROWRA, 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.** Under the current waiver, the State agency is approved until December 31, 1998 to exempt individuals residing in 42 counties and 5 cities from the work requirement provisions of Section 6(o) of the PROWRA based on their designation as Labor Surplus Areas (LSAs) by the Employment and Training Administration (ETA) of the Department of Labor. The counties are: Appling, Atkinson, Baker, Brantley, Burke, Calhoun, Chattahoochee, Dodge, Dooly, Early, Elbert, Emanuel, Glascock, Greene, Hancock, Haralson, Hart, Heard, Jeff Davis, Jefferson, Johnson, Liberty, Lincoln, Macon, McDuffie, Montgomery, Peach, Polk, Quitman, Randolph, Screven, Talbot, Taliaferro, Taylor, Telfair, Terrell, Toombs, Treutlen, Turner, Warren, Wayne, and Wheeler. The cities are: Albany, Atlanta, Augusta, LaGrange, and Rome. Under Waiver

#970087, the State agency was approved until December 31, 1998 to exempt individuals residing in Wilcox County and the City of Americus, based on unemployment over 10 percent in these areas.

Under this extension request, the State agency wants to extend the waiver until November 1999 and expand it to include 53 counties and 5 cities. Forty-one counties and 5 cities originally approved under the last extension of waiver #970088 based on their designation as LSAs continue to be identified as LSAs on the most recent listing through September 30, 1999. This extension request includes 12 additional counties (Bacon, Ben Hill, Clay, Crisp, Fannin, Grady, Mitchell, Sumter, Towns, Washington, Wilcox, and Worth) for consideration of exemption based on their recent designation as LSAs.

9. **Action and reason for approval or denial.** Based on information provided by the State agency and review of recent data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), we are modifying waiver #970088 to exempt, through November 30, 1999, individuals who reside in the following 53 counties and 5 cities from the work requirement provisions of Section 6(o) of the Food Stamp Act based on their designation as LSAs by the ETA.

Areas approved for extension are: the counties of Appling, Atkinson, Baker, Brantley, Burke, Calhoun, Chattahoochee, Dodge, Dooly, Early, Elbert, Emanuel, Glascock, Greene, Hancock, Haralson, Hart, Heard, Jeff Davis, Jefferson, Johnson, Liberty, Lincoln, Macon, McDuffie, Montgomery, Peach, Polk, Randolph, Screven, Talbot, Taliaferro, Taylor, Telfair, Terrell, Toombs, Treutlen, Turner, Warren, Wayne, and Wheeler, and the cities of Albany, Atlanta, Augusta, LaGrange, and Rome (41 counties and 5 cities).

Wilcox County had been approved based on unemployment over 10 percent and is now approved for extension as an LSA.

Areas approved for inclusion as newly designated LSAs, effective November 1, 1998, are the counties of Bacon, Ben Hill, Clay, Crisp, Fannin, Grady, Mitchell, Sumter, Towns, Washington, and Worth (11 counties).

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 PROWRA, 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 does not have a sufficient number of jobs to provide employment for individuals residing in the area.

11. **Conditions and reasons:** N/A

12. **Information required for extension:** To receive an extension the State agency must provide data indicating that there are insufficient jobs in the affected areas.
13. **Expiration date:** This waiver will expire on November 30, 1999.
14. **Limitation, if any, on regional office approval of like requests:** This waiver is limited to the Georgia State Agency.
15. **Quality control procedures:** N/A
16. **Date of national office action:**
17. **Date of State agency's request:** October 16, 1998.
18. **Date of regional office transmittal of request to national office:**
19. **Date of regional office transmittal of response to State agency:**
20. **Actual implementation date:**