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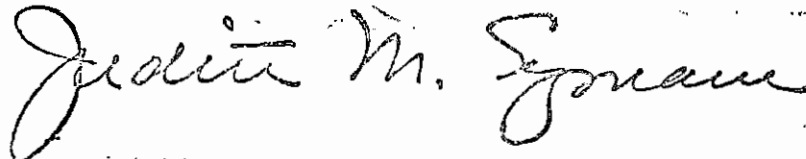
SUBJECT: FSP - Illinois - Request to Waive Section 6(o) of the Food Stamp Act, as Amended by Section 824 of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996

TO: David Mikelson, Director
Food Stamp Program
Midwest Region

This is in response to your memorandum of November 27, 1998, forwarding the Illinois State Agency's request for a modification and extension of its waiver of Section 6(o) of the Food Stamp Act. Under the proposed extension the State agency had requested exemptions from the work requirements for individuals residing in 36 counties and 21 large cities based on insufficient jobs as indicated by the designation of the counties and cities as Labor Surplus Areas (LSAs). The State agency is also requesting exemptions for residents of 227 smaller municipalities based on unemployment rates for the affected areas greater than 20 percent above the national average for a recent 24-month period.

Our response approving the extension of the waiver is attached. Exemptions for residents of 6 counties and 2 cities, originally requested on the basis of LSA designation but not listed as LSAs by the Department of Labor, have been approved based on unemployment rates greater than 20 percent above the national average for a recent 24-month period.

If you have any questions, please contact Larry Tropp at 703-305-2437.



Arthur T. Foley
Director
Program Development Division

Attachment

cc: John Knaus, Joe Shea, Maurice Tracy, All Regions (except MWRO), Civil Rights CPB (circulate), Retha Oliver

FCS:FSP:PDD:CPB:LTropp:final:12/29/98:va

FILE: ABAWDS

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Waiver Response

1. **Waiver serial number:** 980017
2. **Type of request:** Modification/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:** Illinois
6. **Region:** MWRO
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; 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 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 Illinois State Agency is requesting extension and modification of its current waiver of the work requirement provisions of Section 6(o) of the Food Stamp Act which was approved based on the criteria of insufficient jobs. The State agency submitted a list of 36 counties and 21 large cities which it indicated were designated as Labor Surplus Areas (LSAs). In addition, it submitted data compiled by the Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES) which identified 227 municipalities with unemployment rates of at least 5.9 percent, or 20 percent higher than the national unemployment rate for the 24-month period of October 1996 through September 1998.

9. **Action and reason for approval or denial:** Based on the information submitted by the State agency, and in accordance with your recommendation, we are approving the request for the following areas designated as LSAs.

The counties officially designated as LSAs are Alexander, Crawford, Fayette, Franklin, Fulton, Gallatin, Greene, Grundy, Hamilton, Hardin, Jasper, Jefferson, Johnson, LaSalle, Lawrence, Marion, Mason, Montgomery, Perry, Pope, Pulaski, Putnam, Randolph, Saline, Scott, Stark, Union, Wabash, White, and Williamson. The cities are Alton in Madison County; Belleville in St. Clair County; Carpentersville in Kane County; Cicero, Chicago, and Chicago Heights, and Dolton in Cook County, East St. Louis in St. Clair County, Freeport in Stephenson County, Granite City in Madison County, Harvey in Cook County; Joliet in Will County, Kankakee in Kankakee County; Maywood in Cook County, North Chicago in Lake County, Pekin in Tazewell County, Peoria in Peoria County, Rockford in Winnebago County, and Waukegan in Lake County.

The State agency had originally requested exemptions for residents of Clay, Edwards, Macon, Schuyler, Vermilion, and Wayne Counties, and Calumet City and Rantoul Village based on LSA designation although they were not on the official LSA list from ETA. The State agency later provided data indicating that all of the areas qualified for exemptions based on unemployment greater than 20 percent above the national average for a 24-month period as indicated in the table below.

COUNTY/CITY	LABOR FORCE	EMPLOYED	NUMBER UNEMPLOYED	UNEMPLOYMENT RATE
Clay	6,871	6,430	435	6.3%
Edwards	3,752	3,528	224	6.0%
Macon	58,449	54,521	3,929	6.7%
Schuyler	3,641	3,421	220	6.0%
Vermilion	39,215	36,441	2,774	7.1%
Wayne	7,978	7,474	503	6.3%
Calumet City	19,137	18,003	1,134	5.9%
Rantoul Village	5,262	4,908	353	6.7%

Based on that data we are excluding the above-mentioned areas based on insufficient jobs.

The State agency also submitted data compiled by IDES which identifies 227 municipalities with unemployment rates more than 20 percent above the national average of 5.9 percent for the 24 month period of October 1996 through September 1998.

The municipalities are listed in the following table:

MUNICIPALITY	COUNTY	LABOR FORCE	EMPLOYED	UNEMPLOYED NUMBER	UNEMPLOYED RATE
La Prairie village	ADAMS	36	30	5	15.0%
Mulberry Grove village	BOND	328	295	33	10.1%
Pocahontas village	BOND	416	368	48	11.5%
Smithboro village	BOND	93	86	7	7.9%
Sorento village	BOND	243	225	18	7.6%
Belvidere city	BOONE	10,596	9,902	694	6.5%

MUNICIPALITY	COUNTY	LABOR		UNEMPLOYED	
		FORCE	EMPLOYED	NUMBER	RATE
Capron village	BOONE	482	447	34	7.1%
Mound Station village	BROWN	72	66	6	8.8%
Bureau Junction village	BUREAU	134	122	12	9.1%
Cherry village	BUREAU	268	251	18	6.7%
DePue village	BUREAU	789	730	58	7.4%
Hollowayville village	BUREAU	11	10	2	16.4%
Mineral village	BUREAU	113	103	9	8.3%
Neponset village	BUREAU	238	222	16	6.7%
Ohio village	BUREAU	208	194	14	6.8%
Seatonville village	BUREAU	117	109	8	7.2%
Spring Valley city	BUREAU	2,570	2,333	237	9.2%
Tiskilwa village	BUREAU	429	402	27	6.4%
Wyanet village	BUREAU	566	519	47	8.3%
Lanark city	CARROLL	746	702	44	5.9%
Milledgeville village	CARROLL	572	538	34	5.9%
Savanna city	CARROLL	1,767	1,562	205	11.6%
Beardstown city	CASS	2,838	2,643	195	6.9%
Chandlerville village	CASS	314	287	27	8.6%
Bulpitt village	CHRISTIAN	119	102	16	13.9%
Edinburg village	CHRISTIAN	612	573	39	6.4%
Kincaid village	CHRISTIAN	667	596	71	10.6%
Owanoco village	CHRISTIAN	102	93	9	9.1%
Pana city	CHRISTIAN	2,611	2,414	197	7.5%
Casey city	CLARK	1,645	1,540	106	6.4%
Marshall city	CLARK	1,983	1,855	128	6.5%
Beckemeyer village	CLINTON	509	475	34	6.6%
Carlyle city	CLINTON	1,692	1,562	130	7.7%
Damiansville village	CLINTON	198	183	15	7.6%
Keyesport village	CLINTON	194	182	12	6.0%
New Baden village	CLINTON	1,231	1,158	74	6.0%
Humboldt village	COLES	258	236	21	8.3%
Oakland city	COLES	457	425	32	7.0%
Bellwood village	COOK	11,367	10,683	684	6.0%
Blue Island city	COOK	10,827	10,028	799	7.4%
Broadview village	COOK	4,949	4,648	301	6.1%
Burnham village	COOK	1,939	1,815	125	6.4%
Calumet Park village	COOK	4,530	4,150	379	8.4%
Dixmoor village	COOK	1,789	1,606	183	10.2%
Ford Heights village	COOK	1,326	1,019	308	23.2%
Hazel Crest village	COOK	7,457	6,823	634	8.5%
Hodgkins village	COOK	1,086	1,017	69	6.4%
Markham city	COOK	6,388	5,632	756	11.8%
Melrose Park village	COOK	11,472	10,771	700	6.1%
Oak Grove village	COOK	349	320	29	8.2%
Phoenix village	COOK	919	793	126	13.8%
Riverdale village	COOK	6,750	6,189	560	8.3%
Robbins village	COOK	2,618	2,148	470	17.9%
Stone Park village	COOK	2,346	2,159	187	8.0%
Summit village	COOK	5,060	4,621	439	8.7%
Neoga city	CUMBERLAND	883	828	55	6.3%
Toledo village	CUMBERLAND	568	530	37	6.6%
De Witt village	DeWITT	67	59	8	11.7%
Wapolla village	DeWITT	324	287	37	11.3%
Waynesville village	DeWITT	219	199	20	9.1%
Arlington village	DOUGLAS	103	90	13	12.8%
Hindsboro village	DOUGLAS	197	182	14	7.2%

MUNICIPALITY	COUNTY	LABOR		UNEMPLOYED	
		FORCE	EMPLOYED	NUMBER	RATE
Metcalf village	EDGAR	100	91	9	9.4%
Paris city	EDGAR	4,344	4,072	272	6.3%
Vermilion village	EDGAR	166	156	10	6.3%
Dieterich village	EFFINGHAM	343	312	31	9.2%
Edgewood village	EFFINGHAM	228	208	20	8.7%
Mason town	EFFINGHAM	216	192	23	10.7%
Montrose village	EFFINGHAM	181	161	20	11.0%
Watson village	EFFINGHAM	359	328	31	8.8%
Elliott village	FORD	152	142	10	6.4%
Melvin village	FORD	216	195	20	9.5%
Paxton city	FORD	1,990	1,865	125	6.3%
Basco village	HANCOCK	59	55	4	6.6%
Dallas City	HANCOCK	571	536	35	6.2%
Elvaston village	HANCOCK	125	113	12	9.4%
Ferris village	HANCOCK	122	111	12	9.6%
Pontoosuc village	HANCOCK	114	106	8	6.9%
West Point village	HANCOCK	107	96	12	11.0%
Gulf Port village	HENDERSON	116	109	7	6.2%
Media village	HENDERSON	95	89	7	6.9%
Oquawka village	HENDERSON	727	656	71	9.8%
Anna city	HENRY	1,973	1,798	175	8.9%
Bishop Hill village	HENRY	62	57	4	7.2%
Colona village	HENRY	1,156	1,077	78	6.8%
Galva city	HENRY	1,344	1,217	127	9.5%
Kewanee city	HENRY	6,014	5,637	377	6.3%
Crescent City village	IROQUOIS	277	260	17	6.1%
Donovan village	IROQUOIS	140	128	12	8.8%
Milford village	IROQUOIS	777	720	57	7.3%
Onarga village	IROQUOIS	649	610	39	6.0%
Papineau village	IROQUOIS	74	59	15	19.7%
Thawville village	IROQUOIS	124	114	10	8.1%
Watseka city	IROQUOIS	2,639	2,478	161	6.1%
Wellington village	IROQUOIS	85	74	11	13.1%
Woodland village	IROQUOIS	183	167	16	8.6%
Ava city	JACKSON	256	230	26	10.1%
Elkville village	JACKSON	364	340	24	6.6%
Murphysboro city	JACKSON	3,854	3,559	295	7.7%
Vergennes village	JACKSON	141	132	9	6.6%
Grafton city	JERSEY	446	392	55	12.2%
Otterville town	JERSEY	61	56	5	7.9%
Apple River village	JO DAVIESS	192	176	16	8.6%
Menominee Village	JO DAVIESS	107	94	13	12.1%
Nora village	JO DAVIESS	86	78	8	9.6%
Warren village	JO DAVIESS	792	743	48	6.1%
Maple Park village	KANE	469	440	30	6.3%
Essex village	KANKAKEE	239	223	16	6.8%
Hopkins Park village	KANKAKEE	186	146	40	21.4%
St. Anne village	KANKAKEE	581	547	34	5.9%
Sun River Terrace village	KANKAKEE	194	164	30	15.4%
Abingdon city	KNOX	1,858	1,729	129	7.0%
Altona village	KNOX	278	255	23	8.4%
Maquon village	KNOX	134	122	12	9.2%
St. Augustine village	KNOX	81	75	7	8.4%
Hainesville village	LAKE	73	54	19	26.0%
Round Lake Heights village	LAKE	722	673	49	6.7%
Round Lake Park village	LAKE	2,588	2,391	197	7.6%

MUNICIPALITY	COUNTY	LABOR		UNEMPLOYED	
		FORCE	EMPLOYED	NUMBER	RATE
Zion city	LAKE	11,370	10,667	703	6.2%
Harmon village	LEE	98	89	10	10.1%
Nelson village	LEE	79	73	5	6.8%
Lincoln city	LOGAN	6,399	5,978	422	6.6%
Middletown village	LOGAN	161	150	11	7.0%
Tennessee village	McDONOUGH	60	55	5	7.8%
Bull Valley village	McHENRY	337	317	20	5.9%
Wonder Lake CDP	McHENRY	4,316	4,056	260	6.0%
Anchor village	McLEAN	85	79	7	7.6%
Ellsworth village	McLEAN	119	112	7	6.1%
Benld city	MACOUPIN	656	600	56	8.6%
Carlinville city	MACOUPIN	2,758	2,569	188	6.8%
Chesterfield village	MACOUPIN	89	78	11	12.3%
Dowell village	MACOUPIN	218	188	30	13.9%
East Gillespie village	MACOUPIN	78	72	6	7.6%
Gillespie city	MACOUPIN	1,665	1,557	108	6.5%
Girard city	MACOUPIN	1,050	983	67	6.4%
Hettick village	MACOUPIN	112	99	13	11.3%
Medora village	MACOUPIN	214	196	18	8.3%
Mount Clare village	MACOUPIN	131	116	15	11.5%
Palmyra village	MACOUPIN	335	310	25	7.5%
Plainville village	MACOUPIN	170	157	13	7.4%
Royal Lakes village	MACOUPIN	76	54	23	29.7%
Sawyer village	MACOUPIN	133	119	14	10.7%
White City village	MACOUPIN	102	91	11	10.7%
Wilsonville village	MACOUPIN	220	193	27	12.2%
East Alton village	MADISON	3,081	2,870	210	6.8%
Hartford village	MADISON	813	763	49	6.1%
Livingston village	MADISON	408	376	32	7.7%
Madison city	MADISON	1,911	1,744	168	8.8%
New Douglas village	MADISON	139	128	11	8.0%
Roxana village	MADISON	777	725	52	6.7%
St. Johns village	MADISON	125	109	16	12.9%
Venice city	MADISON	1,457	1,179	278	19.1%
Williamson village	MADISON	113	99	14	12.3%
Wood River city	MADISON	5,888	5,540	348	5.9%
Sparland village	MARSHALL	171	149	22	12.7%
Wenona city	MARSHALL	225	201	25	10.9%
Brookport city	MASSAC	482	442	40	8.3%
Joppa village	MASSAC	180	162	18	10.2%
Atwood village	MENARD	690	643	47	6.8%
Joy village	MERCER	199	183	16	8.0%
Keithsburg city	MERCER	335	302	33	9.9%
Matherville village	MERCER	293	265	28	9.5%
New Boston city	MERCER	257	214	43	16.6%
North Henderson village	MERCER	86	81	6	6.4%
Seaton village	MERCER	116	99	17	14.9%
Franklin	MORGAN	331	307	24	7.4%
Murrayville village	MORGAN	336	314	22	6.7%
Allenville village	MOULTRIE	100	91	9	9.1%
Oregon city	OGLE	2,258	2,125	133	5.9%
Kingston Mines village	PEORIA	137	128	9	6.3%
West Peoria CDP	PEORIA	2,317	2,171	146	6.3%
Bement village	PIATT	781	724	57	7.3%
Cerro Gordo village	PIATT	673	631	42	6.2%
De Land village	PIATT	229	213	16	7.1%

MUNICIPALITY	COUNTY	LABOR		UNEMPLOYED	
		FORCE	EMPLOYED	NUMBER	RATE
Hammond village	PIATT	228	207	20	9.0%
Baylis village	PIKE	86	64	22	25.2%
El Dara village	PIKE	38	29	9	24.0 %
Florence village	PIKE	16	14	2	10.7%
Hull village	PIKE	222	208	14	6.4%
Milton village	PIKE	155	145	10	6.4%
Nebo village	PIKE	162	134	27	17.0%
New Canton town	PIKE	174	158	17	9.5%
New Salem village	PIKE	71	58	13	18.7%
Norwood village	PIKE	291	266	25	8.6%
Pearl village	PIKE	67	57	10	14.9%
Pleasant Hill village	PIKE	431	402	29	6.7%
Time village	PIKE	24	21	2	10.4%
Valley City village	PIKE	13	6	7	50.8%
Calhoun village	RICHLAND	144	132	12	8.6%
Claremont village	RICHLAND	127	114	12	9.8%
Noble village	RICHLAND	380	353	27	7.0%
Olney city	RICHLAND	2,451	2,125	326	13.3%
Alorton village	ST. CLAIR	859	677	192	22.1 %
Brooklyn village	ST. CLAIR	338	278	60	17.7%
Centreville city	ST. CLAIR	2,530	2,203	327	12.9 %
East Carondelet village	ST. CLAIR	302	273	29	9.7%
Fayetteville village	ST. CLAIR	140	128	12	8.3%
Lenzburg village	ST. CLAIR	221	196	24	11.1%
Marissa village	ST., CLAIR	1,146	1,063	83	7.2%
National City village	ST. CLAIR	21	14	7	34.6%
Scott AFB CDP	ST. CLAIR	1,431	1,329	102	7.1.%
Washington Park village	ST. CLAIR	2,313	1,965	348	15.0%
Berlin village	SANGAMON	97	89	7	7.5%
Loami village	SANGAMON	414	382	32	7.7%
Mechanicsburg village	SANGAMON	300	272	29	9.6%
Thayer village	SANGAMON	353	329	23	6.6%
Cowden village	SHELBY	240	224	16	6.6%
Findlay village	SHELBY	419	388	31	7.3%
Herrick village	SHELBY	178	146	32	17.9%
Oconee village	SHELBY	95	85	10	10.8%
Shelbyville city	SHELBY	2,510	2,337	173	6.9%
Tower Hill village	SHELBY	261	244	17	6.5%
Windsor city	SHELBY	563	507	56	9.9%
Creve Coeur village	TAZEWELL	3,335	3,124	211	6.3%
Green Valley village	TAZEWELL	359	337	21	5.9%
South Pekin village	TAZEWELL	538	503	35	6.5%
Addieville village	WASHINGTON	148	130	18	11.9%
Astoria village	WASHINGTON	570	513	57	10.0%
Coleta village	WHITESIDE	87	82	5	6.0%
Beecher City village	WILL	248	232	15	6.1%
Braldwood city	WILL	1,979	1,807	172	8.7%
Fairmont CDP	WILL	1,590	1,421	169	10.6%
Godley village	WILL	141	128	13	9.3%
Preston Heights CDP	WILL	1,787	1,663	124	6.9%
Bay View Gardens village	WOODFORD	215	192	23	10.5%
Lec village	SPLIT COUNTY	197	183	14	7.2%
Wamax city	SPLIT COUNTY	699	593	106	15.2%

Source: Illinois Department of Employment Security, Economic Information and Analysis

10. **Regulatory or legislative basis for action:** The 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 unemployment rate over 10 percent or has insufficient jobs.
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.
13. **Expiration date:** This waiver is effective January 1, 1999 and expires on December 31, 1999.
14. **Limitation on regional office approval of like requests:** This waiver is limited to the Illinois State Agency.
15. **Quality Control Procedures:** N/A
16. **Date of national office action:**
17. **Date of State agency's request:** November 20, 1998
18. **Date of regional office transmittal of response to State agency:**
19. **Actual implementation date:**