

March 20, 2007

980017

SUBJECT: FSP - Illinois - Request to Waive 7 CFR 273.24

TO: Tim English, Regional Director
Food Stamp Program
Midwest Region

This is in response to your February 9, 2007, memorandum forwarding a request from the State of Illinois to modify and to extend waiver #980017. We are approving this request.

Because the request and approval for waiver 980017 involves a new 2-year approval period, we are assigning a new waiver number 2070031 to the areas falling under this request. Both extensions and modifications are retroactively effective March 1, 2007. Waiver 980017 will expire on February 28, 2008, and waiver 2070031 will expire on February 28, 2009.

Please find attached our detailed response. Please contact Celeste Perkins if you have questions or need additional information.

/s/

Patrick Waldron
Chief
Certification Policy Branch
Program Development

Attachment

cc: All Regions (except MWRO)
Dan Wilusz, QC, PAD
Bob Dalrymple, OANE

FINAL:USDA:FNS:FSP:PDD:CPB:CPerkins:03/13/07
DIR:I:CPB/Waivers/2007: 980017 IL ABAWD Ext.

Symbol	Surname	Date	Symbol	Surname	Date

WAIVER RESPONSE

1. **Waiver serial number:** 980017
2. **Type of request:** Extension
3. **Primary regulation citation:** 7 CFR 273.24
4. **Secondary regulation citation:**
5. **State:** Illinois
6. **Region:** Midwest Region
7. **Regulatory Requirements:** Under 7 CFR 273.24(b), an individual is not 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; participate in and comply with the requirements of a work program for 20 hours or more per week; or participate in and comply with requirements of a program under Section 20 or a comparable program established by the State.

Under 7 CFR 273.24(f), upon the request of a State agency, FNS may waive the applicability of the above provision for any group of individuals in the State if FNS 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:** Illinois is requesting to extend ABAWD waiver #980017 that currently exempts individuals residing in 8 counties (Cook, Dekalb, Grundy, Kane, Kankakee, Kendall, McHenry, and Will) which had an average unemployment rate (6.1) 20 percent higher than the national average for a 24 month period ending May 2006.

In addition the State is also requesting to exempt residents in 96 municipalities with population less than 25,000 listed in the attached chart from the Illinois Department of Employment Securities. For the period October 2004 – September 2006 these had a 24 monthly average unemployment rate of at least 6.0 %, 120% of the average U.S. unemployment rate of 5.0% for the same period.

9. **Action and reason for approval or denial:** We are approving Illinois' request for a one year extension of its current waiver to exempt individuals

residing in the following counties: Cook, Dekalb, Grundy, Kane, Kankakee, Kendall, McHenry, and Will based on the area's aggregate average unemployment rate, which is at least 20 percent above the national average during June 2004-May 2006. During this period, the national average unemployment rate plus 20 percent was 6.1.

Sub-region of Northeast Economic Development Region

Area	Unemployment rate, June 04-May 06	Area	Unemployment rate, June 04-May 06
Cook County	6.3	Kankakee County	6.6
Dekalb County	5.1	Kendall County	4.6
Grundy County	7.0	McHenry County	4.9
Kane County	5.6	Will County	5.4
		Total for Sub-region	6.1

We are also approving the State's request to exempt residents in 96 municipalities with population less than 25,000 listed in the attached chart from the Illinois Department of Employment Securities. For the period October 2004 – September 2006 these had a 24 monthly average unemployment rate of at least 6.0 %, 120% of the average U.S. unemployment rate of 5.0% for the same period.

10. **Regulatory or legislative basis for action:** This waiver is approved under the authority of 7 CFR 273.24(f), which allows FNS to waive the applicability of the work requirement provision for any group of individuals in the State if FNS makes a determination that the area in which the individuals reside has insufficient jobs.
11. **Conditions and reasons:** n/a
12. **Information required for extension:** To receive an extension the State agency must provide data for the affected areas indicating that there continue to be insufficient jobs for individuals subject to 7 CFR 273.24. They must provide us with all supporting documentation, including spreadsheets in digital form.
13. **Expiration date:** This waiver is approved effective March 1, 2007 and will expire on February 28, 2008.
14. **Limitation on regional office approval of like requests:** This waiver is limited to the Illinois State Agency.
15. **Quality Control Procedures:**
16. **Date of national office action:**
17. **Date of State Agency's request:** February 08, 2007

18. Date of regional office transmittal of request to National Office:

19. Actual implementation date:

Attachment 1 (Cont.)

**MUNICIPALITIES IN ILLINOIS WITH POPULATION LESS THAN 25,000 THAT HAD
OCTOBER 2004-SEPTEMBER 2006 24-MONTH AVERAGE UNEMPLOYMENT RATES OF AT
LEAST 6.0%
OR 120 PERCENT OF AVERAGE U.S. UNEMPLOYMENT RATE (5.0) DURING SAME PERIOD
*Excludes communities within counties that meet 6.0% unemployment rate criterion***

NAME	COUNTY	LABOR FORCE	EMPLOYED	UNEMPLOYED NUMBER	RATE
La Prairie village	Adams	26	23	3	11.5
Loraine village	Adams	192	177	15	7.8
Beardstown city	Cass	3,051	2,795	256	8.4
Broadlands village	Champaign	164	153	11	6.7
Longview village	Champaign	76	68	8	10.5
Rantoul village	Champaign	7,064	6,601	463	6.6
Humboldt village	Coles	236	221	15	6.4
Wapella village	De Witt	336	311	25	7.4
Waynesville village	De Witt	200	188	12	6.0
Garrett village	Douglas	88	77	11	12.5
Hindsboro village	Douglas	179	165	14	7.8
Itasca village	Du Page	4,879	4,560	319	6.5
Atkinson town	Henry	513	472	41	8.0
Kewanee city	Henry	6,644	6,148	496	7.5
Gorham village	Jackson	99	91	8	8.1
Elsah village	Jersey	469	436	3	7.0
Fidelity village	Jersey	4	30	4	11.8
Fieldon village	Jersey	120	111	9	7.5
Grafton city	Jersey	301	277	24	8.0
Otterville town	Jersey	65	58	7	10.8
Apple River village	Jo Daviess	233	219	14	6.0
Hanover village	Jo Daviess	442	392	50	11.3
Nora village	Jo Daviess	61	54	7	11.5
Fox Lake Hills CDP	Lake	1,661	1,547	114	6.9
Long Lake CDP	Lake	2,158	1,980	178	8.2
Old Mill Creek village	Lake	213	197	16	7.5
Park City city	Lake	4,066	3,796	270	6.6
Round Lake village	Lake	3,602	3,326	276	7.7
Round Lake Heights	Lake	864	796	68	7.9
Round Lake Park	Lake	3,084	2,804	280	9.1
Volo village	Lake	108	72	36	33.3
Zion city	Lake	12,087	11,247	840	6.9
Amboy city	Lee	1,250	1,130	120	9.6
Ashton village	Lee	621	579	42	6.8
Nelson village	Lee	61	57	4	6.6
Campus village	Livingston	61	57	4	6.6
Dwight village	Livingston	2,284	2,042	242	10.6
Emington village	Livingston	52	48	4	7.7
Long Point village	Livingston	141	132	9	6.4
Saunemin village	Livingston	227	203	24	10.6
Carlock village	McLean	249	233	16	6.4
Cooksville village	McLean	137	126	11	8.0
Downs village	McLean	447	417	30	6.7

Gridley village	McLean	711	658	53	7.5
Stanford village	McLean	349	306	43	12.3
East Alton village	Madison	3,229	2,977	252	7.8
Hartford village	Madison	789	732	57	7.2
Livingston village	Madison	457	426	31	6.8

Attachment 1 (Cont.)

MUNICIPALITIES IN ILLINOIS WITH POPULATION LESS THAN 25,000 THAT HAD
OCTOBER 2004-SEPTEMBER 2006 24-MONTH AVERAGE UNEMPLOYMENT RATES OF AT
LEAST 6.0%
OR 120 PERCENT OF AVERAGE U.S. UNEMPLOYMENT RATE (5.0) DURING SAME PERIOD
Excludes communities within counties that meet 6.0% unemployment rate criterion

NAME	COUNTY	LABOR FORCE	EMPLOYED	UNEMPLOYED NUMBER	RATE
Madison city	Madison	2,055	1,784	271	13.2
New Douglas village	Madison	183	172	11	6.0
South Roxana village	Madison	940	865	75	8.0
Venice city	Madison	,029	796	233	22.6
Williamson village	Madison	117	107	10	8.5
Wood River city	Madison	5,609	5,265	344	6.1
La Rose village	Marshall	122	107	15	12.3
Varna village	Marshall	219	202	17	7.8
Petersburg city	Menard	1,165	1,054	111	9.5
Tallula village	Menard	351	310	41	11.7
Joy village	Mercer	195	180	15	7.7
Keithsburg city	Mercer	336	298	38	11.3
New Boston city	Mercer	292	268	24	8.2
Seaton village	Mercer	115	102	13	11.3
Windsor village	Mercer	373	349	24	6.4
Hecker village	Monroe	323	294	29	9.0
Bethany village	Moultrie	728	680	48	6.6
Lovington village	Moultrie	707	663	44	6.2
Bartonville village	Peoria	3,289	3,051	238	7.2
Bellevue village	Peoria	928	845	83	8.9
Chillicothe city	Peoria	3,221	3,017	204	6.3
Kingston Mines village	Peoria	131	113	18	13.7
Norwood village	Peoria	204	190	14	6.9
Cerro Gordo village	Piatt	804	743	61	7.6
Hammond village	Piatt	288	263	25	8.7
Mansfield village	Piatt	582	545	37	6.4
Carbon Cliff village	Rock Island	954	896	58	6.1
Oak Grove village	Rock Island	148	138	10	6.8
Buffalo village	Sangamon	286	261	25	8.7
Clear Lake village	Sangamon	157	123	34	21.7
Grandview village	Sangamon	851	788	63	7.4
Cowden village	Shelby	264	228	36	13.6
Findlay village	Shelby	400	364	36	9.0
Herrick village	Shelby	200	173	27	13.5
Sigel town	Shelby	196	183	13	6.6
Tower Hill village	Shelby	316	285	31	9.8
Armington village	Tazewell	178	165	13	7.3
Deer Creek village	Tazewell	331	301	30	9.1
Green Valley village	Tazewell	384	348	36	9.4
Mackinaw village	Tazewell	813	754	59	7.3
North Pekin village	Tazewell	881	793	88	10.0
Bay View Gardens	Woodford	212	195	17	8.0
Kappa village	Woodford	119	104	15	12.6
Minonk city	Woodford	1,215	1,134	81	6.7
Panola village	Woodford	28	22	6	21.4

Secor village	Woodford	207	192	15	7.2
Spring Bay village	Woodford	313	283	30	9.6
Washburn village	Woodford	657	596	61	9.3

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