

MAR 08 1999

970155

SUBJECT: FNS - Indiana 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 M. Mikelson, Regional Director
Food Stamp Program
Midwest Region

This is in response to Indiana State Agency's request for an extension of waiver #970155 which exempts certain areas in the State from the work requirement for able-bodied adults without dependents.

Our response to the waiver is attached. Please let us know if you have any questions.

Signed

Arthur T. Foley
Director
Program Development Division

Attachment

cc: John Knaus, Maurice Tracy, All Regions (except WRO),
Civil Rights, CPB (circulate), OAE - Bob Dalrymple, Fran Heil

FCS:FSP:PDD:CPB:Jwalsh:FINAL3/5/99:va
FC: ABAWDS
DIR: I:CPB:Waivers/970155

Symbol	Surname	Date	Symbol	Surname	Date
<i>FWA</i>	<i>Walsh</i>	<i>3/5/99</i>			
<i>PLM</i>	<i>subarto</i>	<i>3/5/99</i>			

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WAIVER RESPONSE

1. **Waiver serial number:** 970155
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:** Indiana
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; 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:** Currently this waiver includes recipients who reside in the cities of East Chicago, Gary, and Terre Haute and the counties of Fayette, Randolph, Sullivan, and Vermillion. The State agency is only requesting an extension for the cities of East Chicago and Gary and the counties of Randolph and Vermillion. The State agency also requests that we add Orange County to the waiver. These areas have been designated as Labor Surplus Areas (LSAs) by the Employment and Training Administration of the Department of Labor.
9. **Action and reason for approval or denial:** We are approving the State agency's request to exempt residents who reside in the cities of East Chicago and Gary and the counties of Orange, Randolph, and Vermillion based on their designation as LSAs, from the work requirement provisions of Section 6(o) of the Food Stamp Act, as amended by Section 824 of the PRWORA.

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:**
12. **Information required for extension:** Supporting unemployment data reflecting standard BLS data and/or methods should be submitted with any request.
13. **Expiration date:** This waiver is extended for the 2 cities and 3 counties listed above for one year and will expire on March 31, 2000. The waiver remains in effect for the city of Terre Haute in Vigo County and the counties of Fayette and Sullivan until the original expiration date of March 31, 1999.
14. **Limitation, if any, on regional office approval of like requests:** This waiver is limited to the Indiana 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 10, 1999
18. **Date of regional office transmittal of request to national office:** February 19, 1999
19. **Date of regional office transmittal of response to State agency:**
20. **Actual implementation date:**