

October 7, 2008

SUBJECT: Disaster Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (D-SNAP) – Request
for Statewide ABAWD Waiver

TO: William Ludwig
Regional Administrator
Southwest Regional Office

This is in response to the Louisiana Department of Social Services' (DSS) request of October 1, 2008, to exempt individuals residing in the entire State from the work provisions of 7 CFR 273.24. The State agency's current ABAWD waiver 2020121 that applies to 61 parishes was to expire October 31, 2008 and FNS had approved to extend and modify the waiver for 55 parishes effective November 1, 2008. Instead of implementing the waiver renewal, the State agency is requesting that a Statewide ABAWD waiver be granted from September 1, 2008 through February 28, 2009.

The State agency is requesting these changes as a result of Hurricanes Gustav and Ike that severely impacted the majority of State parishes. Staff in non-declared parishes are handling routine operations with minimal staff and serving evacuees. It would be burdensome to impose any work provisions as State agency staff are not only working extended hours to implement disaster operations, but must deal with their own personal recovery issues. In addition, clients who may have had to temporarily evacuate will return to declared areas to deal with recovery issues. The State agency believes that a 6-month Statewide ABAWD waiver will provide time for recovery and the stabilization of the job market so clients will be able to comply with work requirements. Approval of this request also ensures ABAWDs are not penalized for not being able to comply from the month the disaster occurred.

Because the State agency is limited on staff and resources as a result of the disasters, and to help ease the burden on clients, we are approving the State agency's request. ABAWDs residing in the State of Louisiana will be exempt from the work provisions of 7 CFR 273.24 from September 1, 2008 through February 28, 2009. The State must submit renewal of waiver number 2020121 at least 60 days before the statewide exemption expires.

This waiver is approved under the authority in Section 402 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act and Section 5(h) of the Food and Nutrition Act.

/s/

Roberto Salazar
Administrator

E-mail distribution: CPB, Disaster Approvals and Denials, ABAWD Waivers

FINAL:USDA:FNS:SNAP:PDD:CPB:VROBINSON:rh:09/26/08:10/03/08
FILE:I:CPB/DISASTERS/FY 2008 GUSTAV/LOUISIANA/SEPTEMBER 26, 2008 -
ABAWDS/2020121 LA STATEWIDE ABAWD WAIVER

Symbol	Surname	Date	Symbol	Surname	Date

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