

12/03/97

970073

SUBJECT: FSP - Request to Modify Existing Waiver to Section 6(o) of the Food Stamp Act
- Maryland

TO: Joseph Weingart, Regional Administrator
Food and Consumer Service
Mid-Atlantic Regional Office

This is in response to the October 31, 1997, request from the Maryland State Agency to modify waiver no. 970073. That waiver exempts individuals residing in certain areas from the work requirement provisions of Section 6(o) of the Food Stamp Act. The exemptions are based on one of two criteria—unemployment in the area exceeds 10 percent or there are insufficient jobs in the area. Areas identified as Labor Surplus Areas (LSAs) by Employment and Training Administration (ETA) of the Department of Labor currently qualify for exemption under the insufficient jobs category.

The State agency is requesting a modification of the current waiver to include Kent County because of insufficient jobs and it has been identified as an LSA by the ETA. The original waiver expires January 28, 1998. The State agency has not yet completed the necessary work to request an extension of the original waiver and prefers to modify the waiver at this time to include Kent County for the period of October 1, 1997 through September 30, 1998.

We approving the State agency's request to modify waiver no. 970073 to include Kent County based on the insufficient jobs criterion. The waiver will expire on December 31, 1998 for Kent County only. The waiver period for all other areas originally approved under waiver no. 970073 would continue to expire on January 28, 1998.

Our waiver response is attached. Our response provides for a waiver period for Kent County from October 1, 1997 to December 31, 1998, even though the State agency requested a September 30, 1998 expiration date. We prefer a waiver period of at least 1 year from the date of approval in order that waiver extensions will be staggered allowing all parties involved sufficient time to process extension requests.

If you have any questions, please contact Peggy Hickman of my staff at 703-305-2695.

Judith M. Seymour for

Arthur T. Foley,
Director
Program Development Division

Attachments

cc: Joseph Pinto, Retha Oliver, Joe Shea, Maurice Tracy, Mike Depiro (OAE)
All Regions (except MARO), Civil Rights, CPB (circulate)

Final:FCS:FSP:PDD:CPB-II:PHICKMAN:12/01/97

File: ABAWD Waivers - Maryland

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DIR: WAIVER I:/DATA/SHARED/CP/WP/WAIVERS/970073-MD-modification