

Waiver Response

1. **Waiver serial number:** 970129
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:** Missouri
6. **Region:** MPRO
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:** The State agency is requesting an extension to its original waiver for individuals who reside in areas which do not have a sufficient number of jobs to provide employment for individuals subject to Section 824 of the PRWORA.

This waiver would allow an exemption from this requirement for groups of individuals who reside in 28 counties and 1 city. Twenty-seven of the counties and St. Joseph City and St. Louis City are designated as labor surplus areas (LSAs) by the U. S. Department of Labor (DOL), Employment and Training

Administration. The State agency is requesting a waiver for Buchanan County, based on “expansion of a partial county LSA”, i.e., St. Joseph City.

9. **Action and reason for approval or denial:** We are approving the State agency’s request to exempt residents of Benton County, Bollinger County, Carter County, Crawford County, Dallas County, Dunklin County, Hickory County, Howell County, Iron County, Laclede County, Linn County, Madison County, Miller County, Mississippi County, New Madrid County, Pemiscot County, Pike County, Pulaski County, Ripley County, Shannon County, St. Clair County, St. Francois County, Stoddard County, Taney County, Texas County, Washington County, Wright County, and St. Louis City, based on their designation as LSAs, from the work requirement provisions of Section 6(o)(2) of the Food Stamp Act, as amended by Section 824 of the PRWORA.

We are also approving the State agency’s request to exempt residents of Buchanan County, including St. Joseph City, as an expansion of a partial county LSA. St. Joseph City is designated as an LSA and the 1990 census data indicates that 87 percent of the population of the county resides in St. Joseph City.

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 does not have a sufficient number of jobs to provide employment for the individuals.
11. **Conditions and reasons:** N/A
12. **Information required for extension:** For those areas which are exempt based on an insufficient number of jobs, please submit supporting unemployment data which relies on standard BLS data and/or methods.
13. **Expiration date:** This waiver is extended for a period of 1 year and it expires on February 28, 1999.
14. **Limitation on regional office approval of like requests:** This waiver is limited to the Missouri 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 2, 1998.
18. **Date of regional office transmittal of response to State agency:**