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Office of Family Stability Letter # 63
July 2, 2007

TO: Directors, County Departments of Job and Family Services

FROM: Jeanne Carroll, Deputy Director
Office of Family Stability

SUBJECT: **Able-bodied Adults Without Dependents Work Requirement --
Counties Waived**

This letter is not intended to change, replace, or obsolete any portion of applicable federal law, Ohio Revised Code (ORC) section, Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) rule, or Food Stamp Certification Handbook (FSCH) regulation. For a complete explanation of the policies, please reference the FSCH, ORC, OAC, and/or other applicable federal regulations.

Background

Amended Sub. H.B. 66, of the 126th General Assembly, effective July 1, 2005, required Ohio to request from the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) a waiver of the applicability of the work requirements outlined in OAC rule [5101:4-3-20](#) for individuals defined as able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWDs) who are residing in a county where the average unemployment rate for twelve recent calendar months exceeded ten per cent or residing in a county that does not have sufficient jobs to provide employment for these individuals. Legislative language is included in H.B. 119, to be effective July 1, 2007 to continue the requirement of requesting this waiver.

Update

The Office of Family Stability has received from FNS approval of a waiver modification request to waive 69 counties from the ABAWD work requirements based on sub-regions that have an unemployment rate of 20 percent above the national average for a 24-month period, January 2005-December 2006.

Effective July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2008, the counties waived are as follows: Adams, Allen, Ashland, Ashtabula, Athens, Belmont, Brown, Carroll, Champaign, Clark, Clinton, Columbiana, Coshocton, Crawford, Cuyahoga, Darke, Defiance, Erie, Fayette, Fulton, Gallia, Geauga, Greene, Guernsey, Hardin, Harrison, Henry, Highland, Hocking, Holmes, Huron, Jackson, Jefferson, Knox, Lake, Lawrence, Lorain, Lucas, Madison, Mahoning, Marion, Meigs, Miami, Monroe, Montgomery, Morgan, Morrow, Muskingum, Noble, Ottawa, Perry, Pickaway, Pike, Preble, Putnam, Richland, Ross, Sandusky, Scioto, Seneca, Shelby, Stark, Trumbull, Tuscarawas, Vinton, Washington, Williams, Wood, and Wyandot.

All 61 currently waived counties are approved starting July 1, 2007 for the extended waiver. Eight new counties have been added to the waiver: **Champaign, Clinton, Cuyahoga, Geauga, Greene, Hardin, Lake, and Lorain Counties**. The eight counties not previously approved for the waiver qualify for the waiver effective July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2008.

CRIS-E reference table TAWC will be updated to reflect the counties approved under the waiver modification effective July 1, 2007. A CRIS-E view flash bulletin was also posted June 22, 2007 through July 3, 2007.

No rule changes are required.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact the TANF-FSTA mailbox.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

JC/mb

c: Helen E. Jones-Kelley, ODJFS Director
Fred Williams, Assistant Director
Mary Ann Drewry, Assistant Director
Terry Thomas, Assistant Director
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