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Office of Family Stability Letter # 47
February 16, 2006

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—
Additional Counties Waived**

This memo is not intended to change, replace, or obsolete any portion of applicable federal law, Ohio Revised Code (ORC) section, Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) rule, Food Stamp Certification Handbook (FSCH) regulation, or departmental rule. 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, 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.

Previously, under Amended Sub. H.B. 95, Ohio was required to request a waiver of the work requirement based on ABAWD individuals residing in a county with an unemployment rate over ten percent.

FNS approved a waiver of the ABAWD work requirements in the following 35 counties based on having an unemployment rate of 20 percent above the national average for the 24-month period of calendar years 2003 and 2004, or 6.91 percent (5.76 national average multiplied by 120 percent), supporting a claim of lack of sufficient jobs: Adams, Allen, Ashland, Ashtabula, Brown, Carroll, Clark, Columbiana, Coshocton, Crawford, Gallia, Guernsey, Harrison, Hocking, Huron, Jackson, Jefferson, Lucas, Mahoning, Meigs, Monroe, Morgan, Muskingum, Noble, Ottawa, Perry, Pike, Richland, Ross, Sandusky, Scioto, Seneca, Trumbull, Vinton, and Williams counties. This waiver was effective January 1, 2006 and will expire June 30, 2006.

For more information on the ABAWDs waivers effective January 1, 2006, please review Food Stamp Transmittal Letter No. 269, issued December 1, 2005.

Update

We have received FNS approval to waive an additional 26 counties from the ABAWD time-limited work requirement due to lack of sufficient jobs in these counties.

Effective March 1, 2006 through June 30, 2006, the additional counties waived are as follows: Athens, Belmont, Champaign, Darke, Defiance, Erie, Fayette, Fulton, Henry, Highland, Holmes, Knox, Lawrence, Madison, Marion, Miami, Montgomery, Morrow, Pickaway, Preble, Putnam, Stark, Tuscarawas, Washington, Wood and Wyandot.

CRIS-E reference table TAWC has been updated to reflect the additional waived counties. A CRIS-E view flash bulletin will also be posted.

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.

cc:	Barbara Riley, Director	Family Stability Staff
	Fred Williams, Assistant Director	Loretta Adams, OJFSDA
	Bruce Madson, Assistant Director	Crystal Allen, PCSAO
	China Widener, Chief of Staff	Kim Newsome, OCDA
	ODJFS Deputy Directors	Larry Long, CCAO