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July 28, 2006

Shannon Kennedy
Human Services Manager
Ramsey County Community Human Services
160 E. Kellogg Blvd.
Room 3200
Saint Paul, MN 55101

Re: Waiver Application – Ramsey County Community Human Services

Dear Mr. Kennedy:

After a thorough review of the facts, I am granting Ramsey County's waiver request allowing the County to use the Application for Educational Benefits to determine eligibility for its reduced price food and child care assistance programs, provided informed, written consent is obtained from the applicants.

The County's application met the requirements for a temporary, limited exemption from state procedural laws and rules governing the delivery of services. Recent legislation was passed that allows Ramsey County to create a pilot project that will determine eligibility for child care assistance using the student parent's eligibility for reduced-cost or free school lunches in place of income verification. I find that the single application will be a more efficient system for individuals applying to both programs. Student mothers will be able to apply for both programs by going through one application procedure.

Enclosed is an Agreement that must be signed for the exemption/waiver to take effect. As required by Minn. Stat. § 6.80, subd. 5(b), the Agreement expires ten days after adjournment of the 2007 regular legislative session. At that time, the County may resubmit its application.

I appreciate the County's participation in this new waiver process. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Deputy Auditor Tony Sutton at (651) 282-6112 or tony.Sutton@state.mn.us.

Sincerely,

Patricia Anderson
State Auditor