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OFFICE OF WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

DR. TIM ALFORD
DIRECTOR

STATE OF ALABAMA

January 21, 2005

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Ms. Christine Kulick
U.S. Department of Labor
Office of Workforce Investment
Division of One-Stop Operations, Room S4231
200 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20210

Dear Ms. Kulick:

The State of Alabama is requesting a modification to its approved waiver of the transfer of funds limitation between the Adult and Dislocated Worker programs under the Workforce Investment Act (WIA). The following justification is provided in support of our request for this most needed increased flexibility.

> The Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs (ADECA), Office of Workforce Development (OWD), the State administrative entity for the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) is requesting a modification of the current waiver allowing transfer of up to fifty (50) percent of a program year allocation between the Adult and Dislocated Worker programs to eliminate the limitation of transferring WIA funds between Adult and Dislocated Workers programs. This waiver modification would provide the ability to transfer one hundred (100) percent of funds between these programs and ensures that the critical workforce needs of the local communities are met.
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> The three (3) Local Workforce Investment Areas (LWIAs) serve a diverse group of businesses and job seekers facing very different obstacles. The needs of job seekers in urban areas with ample transportation differ from remote rural areas lacking accessible employment with career potential. Each region of the State needs the increased flexibility this waiver will provide to design programs to meet their unique differences. Continued reductions in Adult program funding are limiting the program's capacity to serve those most in need of Workforce Investment Area (WIA) services. In addition, many individuals experiencing layoffs in Alabama also qualify for the Adult Program. Providing flexibility to the LWIAs will allow them to design innovative programs that meet the unique geography of each area and assist their residents in moving toward self-sufficiency.

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Questions regarding this matter may be addressed to Mr. Steve Walkley, Division Director, Workforce Development Division at (334) 242-5300.

Sincerely,

John D. Harrison, Director
ADECA

Tim Alford, Director
Office of Workforce Development

JDH:TA:BEH:sad

pc: Dr. Helen Parker