



Alabama Department of Economic And Community Affairs

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~
DIRECTOR

SIEGELMAN
GOVERNOR

June 7, 2000

Mr. Raymond L. Bramucci, Assistant Secretary
Employment and Training Administration
U.S. Department of Labor
200 Constitution Avenue, N.W. Room S-4231
Washington, D.C. 20210

ATTN: Eric Johnson
Office of Career Transition Assistance

Dear Mr. Bramucci:

On behalf of Governor Don Siegelman, I am submitting Alabama's responses to comments made on our Strategic Five-Year State Plan for Title I of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 and the Wagner-Peyser Act. We trust that we have adequately responded to all comments.

We thank you and the Atlanta Regional Office staff for all the assistance which we have received in this transition to the Workforce Investment Act.

Sincerely,


Nick D. Bailey, Acting Director
ADECA

C: Toussaint Hayes

RECEIVED
JUN 14 10 39 AM '00
U.S. DEPT. OF LABOR
EMPLOYMENT AND
TRAINING ADMIN.

On page 37 of the Alabama 5-Year Plan, the specific strategies that the State will use to assist the councils develop and manage effective programs are as follows:

- The State will provide technical assistance on youth council structure, (membership requirements), roles and responsibilities, youth service providers list process, and criteria reviews for effective youth programs.
- State will develop professional staff development workshops, sessions and conferences involving community asset mapping, strategic planning, evaluation models, collaboration with youth development systems such as Montgomery and Gadsden Job Corps Centers, local School-To-Career Partnership Systems, Birmingham Can! (Youth Opportunity Grant) secondary/postsecondary work based experiences such as Co-op, apprenticeship programs, Tech Prep, High Schools That Work, and Jobs for Alabama Graduates.
- State will use an integrated system of career-related information to various providers in the local workforce areas, i.e. secondary schools, postsecondary colleges, Job Corps, Alternative Schools, Youth Opportunity Grants, Alabama Career (One-Stop) Centers, and other youth development organizations, such as: Boys and Girls Clubs, YMCA/YWCA/ Boy Scouts and Junior Achievement.
- The State will provide oversight and monitoring activities to youth councils and their programs.

A.4. The last sentence is stated as a waiver request. This section is not a waiver application. Approving a plan does not mean that waivers described in it are approved. Please change accordingly.

RESPONSE: On page 37 of the Alabama 5-Year Plan the last sentence that is stated as a wavier request has been deleted from the plan.

B.1. The plan does not describe the types of services that will be provided to adults and dislocated workers by funds from those funding streams. Also, the plan does not describe the State's intended uses for the State's 15 percent set-aside.

RESPONSE: Alabama will provide Rapid Response services through Section 133(a)(2) funds. The designated unit is the State Planning and Rapid Response Section of the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs, Workforce Development Division. Employees assigned to Rapid Response are dedicated to those tasks only, are well-trained and experienced in carrying out their functions of meeting with plant owners or plant managers, of meeting with groups of employees who have received notice of layoff, of coordinating with representatives of partner agencies to share information with affected workers, of sharing information about all available services. These activities will be conducted in coordination with the local workforce investment board and the chief local elected official.

Alabama will provide additional assistance to local areas that experience disasters, mass layoffs or plant closings, or other events that indicate substantial increases in the number of unemployed individuals as these needs arise and there are sufficient funds to accommodate the needs.

Additionally, Alabama will use 15 percent set-aside funds to: disseminate the State list of eligible providers of training services information on on-the-job training eligible providers, and customized training eligible providers, including performance and cost information via Internet access; conduct evaluations of activities

Specific local board and youth council capacity building/technical assistance covering both the expressed training needs of local boards and youth councils and the specific technical assistance recommendations of State and local area program monitors.

Local areas are encouraged to place an importance on capacity building activities equal to that of the State's, employing work groups/task forces, USDOL or private sector consultants, and other sources of expertise to aid in the fuller understanding of their local workforce development system growth requirements and the development of strategies to best meet these requirements.

IV.A.4. Waivers

In accordance with Section 189(i) of the Workforce Investment Act, the State of Alabama plans to request a Waiver of the 10% administrative limit for local administrative costs under Section 128 (b)(4)(A). It is felt that the low percentage limitation, in combination with the smaller overall allocation amounts, will result in Alabama's two smaller Workforce Investment Areas, Mobile and Jefferson/Birmingham, no longer being viable entities. Our fear is that the administrative funds derived from the 10% limitation will be insufficient to provide for the tremendous administrative burden called for in the Workforce Investment Act, resulting in corners being cut in areas such as planning, program design, the many needed partnership activities, property management, oversight, and development and dissemination of the list of eligible training providers.

Out of concern for the economic viability for these Workforce Investment Areas, we request that the Administrative Cost Limitation for Local Workforce Investment Areas in Alabama be increased to 15%.

IV.B. Services

In order to streamline services, empower individuals, effectuate universal access and improve youth services, the State will meet the needs of each of its major customers, including older workers 55 and over, by establishing a mix of services.

Through the employment statistics system, customer groups will have access to accurate and timely labor market information. This information is available online and can be accessed through occupational videos on compact disc.

IV.B.1. Employment and Training Activities

Under the current JTPA system, services are being provided through a case-management system. The current case-management system will be transitioned into the Workforce Investment Act tier system of 1) core, 2) intensive, and 3) training services. The WIA system of services will be provided to both employer and job seekers through Alabama's Career Center System.

The primary service for both employers and job seekers, including older workers 55 and over, is and will continue to be access to the Job Search System provided by the Alabama State Employment Service, a one-stop partner. This system can be accessed through the Internet and through local employment offices or one-stop career centers.

For employers, additional services will include: assistance in filling job openings with qualified applicants, labor market information, employer tailored workshops, job fairs, on-the-job training, and information/referral to other workforce support systems.