



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

BOB RILEY
GOVERNORALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC
AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS**JOHN D. HARRISON**
DIRECTORSTATE OF ALABAMA
February 20, 2003

Ms. Anna Goddard, Regional Administrator
USDOL/Employment and Training Administration
Region III
Atlanta Federal Center
61 Forsyth Street, S.W., Room 6M12
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

Dear Ms. Goddard:

On July 19, 2002, the State of Alabama was notified of an approved waiver for the period of "Initial Eligibility of Training Providers." The granted waiver is through December 31, 2003. Basically, the collection of data from training providers has met with little success. Our community and technical colleges, as well as the universities, have been reluctant to provide performance data on programs. Our Workforce Investment Act (WIA) participants represent a small percentage of these institutions' total enrollments, so there's really no incentive (or requirement) for them to provide performance data. Taking these providers off of our Eligible Training Provider List would devastate our WIA program while having little effect on the training providers. Therefore, we are requesting an extension through June 30, 2004, of the current waiver. A copy of the currently approved waiver is attached. It is written in the format identified in WIA Section 189(i)(4)(B) and the WIA Regulations at Section 661.420(c).

Alabama fully understands the need for accountability and supports efforts to ensure that customers are making informed decisions based on quality data. But when the ability to effectively collect the required data is severely limited, the resulting chaos could effectively destroy customer choice and severely limit the use of ITAs. If you have any questions about the request, please feel free to call Ray Clenney, Supervisor, State Planning and Rapid Response Section at (334) 242-5300.

Sincerely,

John D. Harrison
Director

JDH:BEH:sad

Attachments

pc: Sydney G. Raine
Robert E. Lunsford
Steve Walkley