



JUN 3 2004

The Honorable Bill Owens  
Governor of Colorado  
136 State Capitol  
Denver, Colorado 80203

Dear Governor Owens:

It is with pleasure that I respond to the State of Colorado's request for extension of Workforce Investment Act (WIA) waivers, in accordance with the Secretary's authority to waive certain requirements of WIA Title I, subtitles B and E and Sections 8-10 of the Wagner-Peyser Act.

The State of Colorado is requesting extension of the following approved waivers that expire June 30, 2004:

- Waiver of the WIA Section 123 requirement to competitively select providers of the three youth program elements: 1) paid and unpaid work experience, including internships and job shadowing; 2) supportive services; and 3) follow-up services for not less than 12 months after the completion of participation, and
- Waiver of the 20 percent funds transfer limitation at WIA Section 133(b)(4) to permit the state to approve local area requests to transfer amounts of up to 40 percent of local area allocations between the Adult and Dislocated Worker programs.

The State of Colorado's request (copy enclosed) dated April 1, 2004, indicates that extension of the youth program waiver will allow local workforce centers to continue to provide holistic and sequential services to youth with minimal disruption. The request (copy enclosed) dated February 17, 2004, states that an extension of the waiver related to funds transfer authority is needed to meet the continuing demand for dislocated worker services in the state's lagging economy.

The waiver extension requests are written in the format identified in WIA Section 189(i)(4)(B) and 20 CFR 661.420(c), and appear to meet the standard for approval at 20 CFR 661.420(e). Accordingly, the State of Colorado is granted an extension of the two waivers through June 30, 2005.

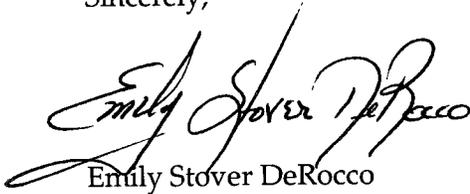
The granted waiver extensions are incorporated by reference into the state's WIA Grant Agreement, as provided for under paragraph 3 of the executed Agreement, and also constitute a modification of the state's approved five-year strategic plan. A copy of each letter should be filed with the state's WIA Grant Agreement and the state's approved five-year strategic plan, as appropriate.

As you know, your waiver extension for funds transferability is consistent with one of the improvements that the Administration is seeking in the reauthorization of the Workforce Investment Act-the consolidation of the WIA Adult, WIA Dislocated Worker and Wagner-Peyser Act (Employment Service) funding streams.

This consolidation would provide states with maximum flexibility to meet unique workforce needs. In the meantime, we hope this waiver extension will assist your state in meeting its workforce needs and improving programmatic outcomes.

We look forward to continuing our partnership with you and achieving better workforce investment outcomes. We are prepared to entertain other state and local-level waiver requests that you may wish to submit, consistent with the provisions of the WIA statute and regulations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Emily Stover DeRocco". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "E".

Emily Stover DeRocco

Enclosure

BILL OWENS  
Governor

JEFFREY M. WELLS  
Executive Director

THOMAS J. LOOFF  
Director



**DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT**  
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

Two Park Central, Suite 400  
1515 Arapahoe Street  
Denver, Colorado 80202-2117

April 1, 2004

Joseph C. Juarez  
Regional Administrator, US Department of Labor  
Employment and Training Administration  
5252 Griffin Street, Room 317  
Dallas, TX 75202

Dear Mr. Juarez:

The Colorado Department of Labor and Employment (CDLE) is seeking an extension through PY04 of its waiver to the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Youth Program. The State of Colorado was granted the waiver of WIA section 123 requirement to competitively select providers of the three youth program elements: 1) paid and unpaid work experience, including internships and job shadowing, 2) supportive services, and 3) follow-up services for not less than 12 months after completion of participation.

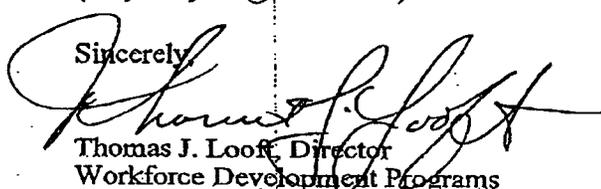
Realizing the importance of comprehensive youth services, Colorado supports local workforce centers in their commitment to providing a holistic approach to youth development and employment. This practice ensures youth enrolled in work experiences have the continuity of supportive and follow-up services relevant to enabling them to become successful adults.

As an outcome of the waiver, Colorado agreed to exceed its negotiated goals in the areas of older and younger youth retention. For PY02, Colorado exceeded those goals.

Colorado is seeking the extension through PY04 to minimize the disruption of providing these sequential services to youth. In light of WIA reauthorization, for a local WIB to undertake a youth program request for proposal would be one of the more complex procurements this year. This endeavor is in addition to the implementation of the technical changes required by the common performance measures during PY03-04.

Colorado appreciates your consideration of our waiver extension request, and our staff is available to answer any questions you may have. Please contact Karyn Baylon at 303-318-8809 ([karyn.baylon@state.co.us](mailto:karyn.baylon@state.co.us)).

Sincerely,

  
Thomas J. Loeff, Director  
Workforce Development Programs

BILL OWENS  
Governor

JEFFREY M. WELLS  
Executive Director



## DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Two Park Central, Suite 400  
1515 Arapahoe Street  
Denver, Colorado 80202-2117

February 17, 2004

Joseph C. Juarez  
Regional Administrator  
US Department of Labor  
Employment and Training Administration  
5252 Griffin Street, Room 317  
Dallas, TX 75202  
Cc: Sean Kelley

Dear Mr. Juarez:

The Colorado Department of Labor and Employment (CDLE) is seeking an extension through PY04 of its waiver to the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) requirement limiting the transfer of funds to 20% of a program year allocation. This waiver, approved by the US Department of Labor in March 2003, allows up to 40% of funds to be transferred between the WIA Adult and Dislocated Worker programs during PY02 and PY03.

Goals to be achieved by the waiver include greater accountability on the part of local boards and added flexibility to design and implement innovative programs that are targeted to local industry needs and worker training. Colorado has in large measure accomplished these goals as evidenced by the following:

- Achievement of all 17 of its WIA performance standards for the third year in a row
- Full implementation of Colorado's workforce evaluation system, the **Performance Excellence Project**
- Expansion of universal access to disabled clients through **Project Train**, which shares resources with formula-funded programs
- Funding of over \$1.2 million in local discretionary projects to promote innovative program design and enhanced services to growth industries and targeted client groups in local labor markets
- Implementation of a National Emergency Grant, which serves additional workers dislocated as the result of 9/11.

Colorado continues to experience high unemployment, loss of jobs, and large layoffs despite national trends toward economic recovery. The following chart, prepared by CDLE's Labor Market Information section, provides evidence of Colorado's lagging economy:

**Current Labor Statistics****Unemployment Rate (SA)**Colorado: **5.8%** (12/03)USA: **5.7%** (12/03)**Colorado Job Growth (SA)**Nov. - Dec.: **-2,600**Dec. 2002 - Dec. 2003: **-19,500**

In addition, CDLE's Rapid Response Unit reports that it has provided layoff services to 146 employers impacting 11,669 workers for the calendar year 2003. This continuing demand for services, coupled with the termination of the NEG grant as of June 30, 2004, and anticipated cuts in FY 04 formula grant funding, signals an even greater need for flexibility in local program and fiscal planning.

Colorado appreciates your consideration of our waiver extension request, and our staff is available to answer any questions you may have. Please contact Elise Lowe-Vaughn at 303-318-8807 ([elise.lowe-vaughn@state.co.us](mailto:elise.lowe-vaughn@state.co.us)) or Nina Holland at 303-318-8806 ([nina.holland@state.co.us](mailto:nina.holland@state.co.us)) should the need arise.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey M. Wells  
Executive Director

Cc: Tom Looft, Elise Lowe-Vaughn, Nina Holland

BILL OWENS  
Governor

JEFFREY M. WELLS  
Executive Director

Thomas Loof  
Director



**DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT**  
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

Two Park Central, Suite 400  
1515 Arapahoe Street  
Denver, Colorado 80202-2117

**FAX COVER PAGE**

(Fax Number: (303) 318-8930)

**PLEASE DELIVER THE FOLLOWING PAGES TO:**

NAME: Sean Kelley

ORGANIZATION: U.S. DOL

DATE: 2-20-04 FAX#: 202-693-3015

\*\*\*\*\*

FROM: Nina Holland PHONE#: 303-318-8806

ORGANIZATION: CDLE

TOTAL # OF PAGES (INCLUDING COVER): 3 TIME: 2:45

COMMENTS: Hand copy sent <sup>via US Mail</sup> on 2/18/04