

## U.S. Department of Labor



A proud member of  
America's Workforce Network

Employment and Training Administration  
REGION V - The Great Heartland

John C. Kluczynski Building  
230 South Dearborn Street, 6th floor  
Chicago, IL 60604-1505

City Center Square  
1100 Main - Suite 1050  
Kansas City, MO 64105-2112

<http://www.doleta.gov/regions/reg05>

November 20, 2003

Ms. Therese McMahon  
Deputy Director  
Workforce Development Bureau  
620 East Adams, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Springfield, Illinois 62701

RE: Individual Training Account Waiver Request

Dear Ms. McMahon:

I am pleased to approve a waiver of the prohibition on the use of ITAs for older and out-of-school youth so they can benefit from services provided by the State's certified eligible training providers.

The following is the disposition of the State's waiver submission.

***Requested Waiver: Waive the provision of 20 CFR 664.510 to allow local areas to use Individual Training Accounts for older and out-of-school youth participants.***

The State's waiver submission requests a waiver of the prohibition on the use of Individual Training Accounts (ITAs) for youth found at 20 CFR 664.510. The State indicates that the waiver, if granted, will allow older and out-of-school youth to select approved ITA programs from the Eligible Training Provider List, while retaining their "youth" classification. The waiver submission states that, under the waiver, One-Stop operators will be able to provide appropriate services to out of school youth who can benefit from such services without having to register the youth in the adult program and track resources separately for each funding stream.

The waiver is written in accordance with WIA Section 189(i)(4)(B) and 20 CFR 661.420(c) and appears to meet the standard for waiver approval at 20 CFR 661.410(e). Under the waiver, local workforce boards will have the option to use the Eligible Training Provider system to secure training providers for these two youth populations, as appropriate. This waiver grants the State and local area boards flexibility in the program design of high quality youth services that will increase customer choice and access to training in demand occupations. In addition, the following stipulations apply to the waiver:

Page 2

- The use of ITAs will offer youth options for customer choice and not be used as an enticement to terminate traditional academic programs;
- The use of ITAs will require a comprehensive plan for service delivery in accordance with local area recommendations;
- The use of ITAs will enhance, not supplant current delivery systems or the implementation of the required elements for youth programs; and
- Planning documents will reflect the core indicators of performance for employment and training activities authorized under WIA Section 134 and WIA Section 136(b)(2)(A), only as they relate to ITAs.

The requirements of WIA Section 129(c) relating to the provision of services to eligible youth remain applicable. Thus, a determination to use an ITA must be based on the development of an objective assessment and individual service plan as outlined in WIA Section 129(c)(1)(A). In addition, the services outlined in WIA Section 129(c)(2) must be made available for those youth for whom the ITAs are not deemed appropriate or that require additional comprehensive services. Procurement of these services must be consistent with the competitive selection requirements at WIA Section 123. Although the State has not requested a duration for the waiver, this waiver is granted for the period of July 1, 2003, through June 30, 2004.

The granted waiver is incorporated by reference into the State's WIA Grant Agreement, as provided under paragraph 3 of the executed Agreement, and also constitutes a modification of Illinois' approved five-year strategic plan. This letter supplements Assistant Secretary DeRocco's notification letter to the Governor and outlines the terms and conditions that apply to the granted waiver. A copy of each letter should be filed with the State's WIA Grant Agreement and approved five-year plan, as appropriate.

We look forward to continuing our partnership with the State of Illinois and improving the lives of its youth through the workforce investment system. We are prepared to entertain other State and local-level waiver requests, consistent with the provisions of the WIA statute and regulations.

Sincerely,



BYRON ZUDEMA  
Regional Administrator

Enclosure