



Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity

Rod R. Blagojevich
Governor

Jack Lavin
Director

December 22, 2003

Mr. Byron Zuidema, Regional Administrator
U.S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration
230 South Dearborn Street
Chicago, Illinois 60604

Dear Mr. Zuidema:

The Department appreciates your recent approval of Illinois' request for a waiver of the provision of 20 CFR 664.510 to permit local workforce areas to use Individual Training Accounts (ITAs) for older youth participants and out-of-school youth participants.

We are submitting a request for extension of that waiver for the time period beginning July 1, 2004, and ending June 30, 2005. Should an extension be granted, local workforce boards will continue to have available the option to use the eligible training provider system to secure training providers for these two youth populations, as appropriate, and flexibility in the program design of high quality youth services that increase customer choice and access to training in demand occupations.

We expect that the following stipulations will remain in effect:

- The use of ITAs should offer 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.

Internet Address <http://www.commerce.state.il.us>

620 East Adams Street
Springfield, Illinois 62701

James R. Thompson Center
100 West Randolph Street, Suite 3-400
Chicago, Illinois 60601

607 East Adams Street
Springfield, Illinois 62701

2309 West Main, Suite 118
Marion, Illinois 62959

217/782-7500
Fax: 217/524-1627 xTDD: 800/785-6055

312/814-7179
Fax: 312/814-6732 xTDD: 800/419-0667

217/785-2800
Fax: 217/785-2618 xTDD: 217/785-6055

618/997-4394
Fax: 618/997-1825 x TDD Relay: 800/526-0844

Letter to U.S. Department of Labor
Employment and Training Administration
December 22, 2003
Page Two

In addition, the State has required and will continue to require that local workforce areas evaluate performance measure outcomes at least quarterly to determine any impact of the waiver.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. Should you require further information or have questions, please contact Lisa Logan at 217/524-5500.

Sincerely,

Therese McMahon, Deputy Director
Bureau of Workforce Development

cc: Mr. Robert Sumerwell
Director Jack Lavin
Ms. Diana DeWeese
Mr. Julio Rodriquez