

U.S. Department of Labor

Assistant Secretary for
Employment and Training
Washington, D.C. 20210



MAY 14 2004

The Honorable Rod Blagojevich
Governor of Illinois
State Capitol
207 Statehouse
Springfield, Illinois 62706

Dear Governor Blagojevich:

It is with pleasure that I respond to the State of Illinois's request for an extension of a Workforce Investment Act (WIA) waiver of the prohibition on the use of Individual Training Accounts (ITAs) for youth found at 20 CFR 664.510, under 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 Illinois's request (copy enclosed) indicates that a waiver extension would provide local workforce boards the option to use the eligible training provider system to secure training providers for older and out-of-school youth participants. The submission further states that a waiver offers flexibility in the program design of high quality youth services that increase customer choice and access to training in demand occupations.

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

The granted waiver is incorporated by reference into the state's WIA Grant Agreement, as provided for under paragraph 3 of the executed Agreement, and also constitutes a modification of Illinois'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.

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 cursive script, appearing to read "Emily Stover DeRocco".

Emily Stover DeRocco

Enclosure