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INDIANA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Frank O'Bannon, Governor
Craig E. Hartzer, Commissioner

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An Equal Opportunity Employer

October 28, 2002

Ms. Emily DeRocco
Assistant Secretary
Employment and Training Administration
United States Department of Labor
200 Constitution Avenue NW, Room S2307
Washington, DC 20210

Dear ~~Ms. DeRocco~~ Emily:

The Indiana Department of Workforce Development (DWD) is requesting a waiver of Section 122(c)(5) of the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) and 20 CFR Part 661.420(c) of the WIA Regulations. We are requesting a waiver to postpone the "Subsequent Eligibility of Training Providers" until July 1, 2004. The waiver request is attached.

Per 20 CFR Part 661.420(c), local boards affected by the waiver were given an opportunity to comment on the request. Also, meaningful public comment, including comment by business and organized labor, was given an opportunity to comment on the request through the Human Resource Investment Council and DWD's web site. No comments on the waiver request were received.

We wish to emphasize our full support of the WIA principals of improving WIA performance information and the accountability of the training providers for the determination of subsequent eligibility. The postponement will also allow Indiana to enhance and strengthen the overall individual training account and the eligible training provider process.

If you have any questions concerning this waiver request, please contact Patrick J. Vercauteren, Deputy Commissioner, Evaluation, Policy and Planning, at 317/232-7182. Thank you for your consideration of our waiver.

Sincerely,

Craig E. Hartzer
Commissioner

State of Indiana

Waiver Request
Workforce Investment Act

Subsequent Eligibility of Training Providers

The Indiana Department of Workforce Development (DWD), the state administrative entity for the Workforce Investment Act (WIA), is requesting a waiver to postpone the "Subsequent Eligibility of Training Providers" until July 1, 2004. The reasons for this request are to improve the WIA performance information and the accountability of the training providers for the determination of subsequent eligibility. This postponement will also allow Indiana to enhance and strengthen the overall individual training account and the eligible training provider processes. The waiver is written in the format identified in WIA section 189(i)(4)(B) and WIA Regulation 661.420(c).

A **Statutory Regulation to be Waived:** Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Section 122(c)(5) and Regulations 663.530, dealing with the time limit for initial eligibility, would be waived.

B **Goal to be Achieved as a Result of the Waiver:** The goals to be achieved by the waiver are to:

- Improve the data collection from potential training providers, thus increasing the customer choice available to trainees;
- Increase the amount of Workforce Investment Act (WIA) performance information from potential training providers, thus increasing the customer choice available to trainees;
- Allow more time to analyze data to set reasonable criteria for "subsequent eligibility; and
- Allow local areas to increase their familiarity with the Individual Training Account and Eligible Training Provider systems.

C **State or Local Statutory or Regulatory Barriers:** There are no state or local statutory or regulatory barriers to implementing the requested waiver.

D **Description of Waiver Goal and Programmatic Outcomes:** Currently, Indiana has approximately 450 different training providers with over 4,000 programs listed on the State eligible training provider list. The list (called "Education & Training Choices" in Indiana) includes the state's community college system, the state's university system, private for profit and nonprofit schools and training agencies. The complete list is located at: http://www.in.gov/serv/dwd_etc

Indiana's experience throughout WIA has been the training providers reluctance to collect the necessary data for the eligible training provider list because of the low number of WIA clients enrolled with that provider. These circumstances are especially true with the state university system. Even with the State's assistance in securing subsequent employment and wage rates for graduates, the cost for collecting and submitting other performance data still outweighs the benefits to be listed on the eligible training provider list.

With a lower number of training providers listed on the eligible training provider list, customer choice will be reduced. This adversely impacts one of the basic principals of WIA – customer choice.

Currently, most of the university system in Indiana is not listed on the eligible training provider list because the cost for collecting and submitting data outweighs the benefits of being included on the eligible training provider list. By not being granted this waiver request, Indiana is certain that many long-standing providers with solid credentials will drop out. Examples of such providers include universities, the state community college system, and other technical schools.

By granting Indiana this waiver request, local WIA providers will have more opportunity to advertise the initial training provider list and the subsequent eligibility process to the training provider community in the state. This will cause more providers to ask for the opportunity to become eligible as a WIA trainer providing more choices to the customer.

To accomplish these goals, Indiana intends to carry out the following activities:

- Announcing the State will operationalize and up-date the eligible training provider list into the subsequent eligibility list.

- Enhancing DWD's Policy & Planning's WEB site so training providers and workforce investment boards have an easier time verifying subsequent eligibility information. The enhanced WEB site will be in place during Program Year 2002. Continued enhancements to the WEB site will be ongoing.

- Carry on a state and local public relations effort informing training providers throughout the state of the potential of the eligible training provider list and the WIB subsequent eligible process. Although done in PY'99, efforts will be made to intensify the outreach throughout the year. As examples, the State will request the support of the State Human Resource Investment Council, the State Chamber of Commerce, the Workforce Investment Boards, and the Indiana Manufacture's Association to promote the use of the subsequent eligibility list to employers.

- The Policy & Planning Unit will provide technical assistance to the locals concerning the status of the subsequent training provider list. Memoranda and email messages will be published, as well as providing one-on-one technical assistance to a workforce investment board.