



Mailed 2/19/01

Department for Training and ReEmployment  
Cabinet for Workforce Development

Allen D. Rose  
Secretary

William H. Gaunce  
Commissioner

Fred Tello  
Grant Officer  
US Department of Labor  
Employment and Training Administration  
200 Constitution Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20210

February 16, 2001

Dear Mr. Tello:

The Commonwealth of Kentucky, Cabinet for Workforce Development, Department for Training and ReEmployment, as the Governor's Administrative Entity for programs operated under the Workforce Investment Act, is hereby requesting a waiver of the 80% obligation requirement (described in Section 132 (c) of the Workforce Investment Act) for PY2000 Rapid Response funds as allowed under Section 189 (i). The Commonwealth has a strategic plan that will expend over 80% of the PY2000 Rapid Response funds, but does not believe that the 80% obligation level for the funds will be reached by June 30, 2001.

Enclosed is the Commonwealth's strategic plan for use of the PY2000 Rapid Response allocation. Briefly, we are considering the following:

- On-site access for affected employees to career exploration/job search software through the use of laptops;
- Interpreter services and translation of the materials used in Rapid Response presentations for the growing number of dislocated employees who do not use English as their primary language;
- Design of customer satisfaction surveys (multi-lingual) for employers and employees to evaluate Rapid Response activities, including on-going survey scoring and compilation of the results;
- Creation and maintenance of a web page to serve as a vehicle to provide and exchange current Rapid Response information with employers, employees, and workforce development service providers;
- Layoff aversion assessment services available as needed to employers faced with potential dislocations (delivered in coordination with area economic development strategies);
- A Mobile Rapid Response Resource Lab (customized semi-tractor trailer) offering a full menu of services on-site during periods of Rapid Response activities, and

209 St. Clair Street, 4th Floor, Frankfort, KY 40601  
(502) 564-5360 - FAX (502) 584-8974



- Awarding "additional assistance" funds to local workforce investment areas experiencing high levels of dislocations.

Several of the above services involve procurement and contracting processes that affect the Commonwealth's ability to obligate 80% of the funds by June 30, 2001. The Department for Training and ReEmployment has spent the last six months reinventing the Commonwealth's Rapid Response Unit, including hiring and training new personnel. The Rapid Response services now available are more customer-oriented and higher quality; focusing on flexibility, creativity, and a more effective use of community resources. The six months spent on this re-design and new staffing has delayed the strategic plan of expanding the scope of the Unit and increasing the number and type of services offered to both employers and employees.

The Department for Training and ReEmployment believes the enclosed plans will provide innovative cost-effective solutions that will address previously unmet needs of the employers and citizens of the Commonwealth. If the funding obligation requirement is not waived, we will be forced to table these plans until the new allocations are finalized for PY2001, which would result in a loss of up to half a year of services. A return of the unobligated funds will also not reflect the great need that exists for these services. If the funding obligation requirement is waived as requested, we project these services will be implemented within the first quarter of PY2001.

Please call me, or my Division Director, Julia Inman, at (502) 564-5360 if you have any questions or need further information.

Sincerely,



William H. Gaunce  
Commissioner

Cc: Allen D. Rose  
Anna Goddard  
Sonja Johnson  
Clyda Henderson  
Julia Inman ✓  
Faye Courtney  
RR File

Enclosure

**Commonwealth of Kentucky**  
**Cabinet for Workforce Development**  
**Department for Training and ReEmployment**  
**Rapid Response Strategic Plan - Program Year 2000**

**Goal: To create a high-quality flexible Rapid Response service delivery system that meets the diverse needs of employers and employees facing dislocation.**

<b>Strategy</b>	<b>Timeline*</b>	<b>Desired Outcome</b>
Develop a Rapid Response Unit with the capacity and training to address and fulfill requests for information, activities and outcomes.	7/1/2000 - 12/31/01	High level of individual and employer customer satisfaction with services
Design and maintain a customer satisfaction measurement system.	2/1/01 - 4/30/01	The ability to quantifiable and qualitatively measure levels of customer satisfaction.
Create a portable delivery system to connect employees at Rapid Response events to labor market, career exploration and job search information. (E.g., Virtual One-Stop software on laptops)	3/1/01 - 7/31/01	Increased number of dislocated workers can access employment related information quickly and easily.
Provide a network of available interpreter services for all Rapid Response activities throughout the Commonwealth.	4/1/01 - 7/31/01	Dislocated workers who do not use English as their primary language have quick access to Rapid Response information in their primary language.
Provide all critical informational and application materials in a variety of languages.	4/1/01 - 7/31/01	Dislocated workers who do not use English as their primary language can understand the available resources and make informed decisions about applying for services.
Development and maintenance of a Rapid Response web page connected to the Commonwealth's home page.	5/1/01 - 8/31/01	Increased communication and exchange of information about Rapid Response activities, the labor market impact and related materials for employers, employees and workforce development service providers.
Layoff aversion assessment services to assist employers who are interested in deterring a potential dislocation. (Including coordination and marketing of services.)	4/1/01 - 9/15/01	Employers become aware of, and consider, solutions to business downturns that do not involve dislocations.
Development and customization of a mobile Rapid Response Resource Lab.	4/1/01 - 9/30/01	Increased number of dislocated workers can access information and services at the employer site that are normally only available at comprehensive One-Stop Centers
Award additional assistance funds to local workforce investment areas experiencing high numbers of dislocations.	1/1/01 - 6/30/01	Increase the number of eligible dislocated workers served in local areas in response to labor market events.

\*Timelines reflect the estimated period of time required to procure services as needed, negotiate contracts and begin implementation of the services.

Note: Objectives and performance indicators will be developed upon approval of the resource obligation waiver from the Department of Labor.

Diane ZIEGLER - Obligation of PY 2000 Rapid Response funds

**From:** <MikeM.Harmon@mail.state.ky.us>  
**To:** REGION\_04.ETA(CNORTON,SJOHNSON),ETA.OFAM(EDONAHUE)  
**Date:** Fri, Apr 27, 2001 5:33 PM  
**Subject:** Obligation of PY 2000 Rapid Response funds

Please find attached a worksheet that I have prepared for calculating the 80% obligation rate for the dislocated worker funding stream per our conversation the other day.

<<RR Info for C. Norton.xls>>

Based on this method of calculating the obligation rate, we will meet the rate for the PY 2000 Dislocated Worker funds. I am still very concerned about how DOL will extract obligation information from the quarterly reports we file to determine if we have met the rate at 6/30/2001. For example, how will they determine how much of the 15% Statewide obligations pertain to the Dislocated Workers funding stream when we have pooled the Dislocated Worker funds with Adult and Youth funding streams and are not required to track and report the 15% Statewide funds separately by funding stream? As you will note on the worksheet (and we discussed this the other day) we are able to consider the (60%) allocations to the LWIAs (which includes 10% for administration) as an obligation. The WIA regulations also allows us to remove the 10% local administration from the calculation, therefore, the local administration amount is in effect included twice as an obligation.

Since a State will automatically meet the 80% obligation rate for Adult and Youth when we allocate 85% of our total allotments to the LWIAs, will Dislocated Workers be the only funding stream for which the State will have to worry about meeting the obligation rate? Is the method used in our worksheet to calculate the 80% obligation rate correct? If yes, can we get written confirmation from you stating this is the proper method to use?

If the calculation method is correct, Kentucky will meet the obligation rate for the PY 2000 Dislocated Worker funds and we will withdraw our request for wavier of the obligation rate for the PY 2000 Rapid Response funds. We will submit a letter to formally request the withdrawal of the wavier at a later date.

Michael M. Harmon  
Department of Training and ReEmployment

**CC:** ETA\_PRIMARY.GWIA("TinaM.Watts@mail.state.ky.us","J...

**Community Development Finance**  
**Obligation of PY 2000 (FY 2001) Dislocated Worker**

<b>Total Dislocated Worker Allocation PY 2000 (FY 2001)</b>	\$ 11,423,295
<b>less 5% State Administration (per Regs. 667.150)</b>	571,165
<b>less 10% Local Administration (per Regs. 667.150)</b>	<u>685,398</u>
<b>Net Dislocated Worker Allocation</b>	\$ 10,166,733
<b>Amount needed to reach 80% obligation Rate</b>	\$ 8,133,386

<b>Obligations</b>	
<b>60% Allocated to LWIAs</b>	\$ 6,853,977
<b>Rapid Response awarded to LWIAs for local activity</b>	\$ 92,975
<b>Rapid Response Additional Assistance - Bluegrass</b>	\$ 1,000,000
<b>Rapid Response Additional Assistance - Purch/Penny.*</b>	\$ 1,500,000
<b>Actual Expenses by State Rapid Response Unit (3/31/01)</b>	<u>\$ 147,589</u>
<b>Total Obligations</b>	\$ 9,594,541
<b>Amount obligated above 80% requirement</b>	\$ 1,461,155

\*Anticipated Amount of Request