



# LOUISIANA WORKS

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

M.J. "Mike" Foster, Jr.  
Governor

Garey Forster  
Secretary

**OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY**

February 5, 2002

Joseph Juarez  
Regional Administrator  
Dallas Regional Office  
525 Griffin St., Rm. 317  
Dallas, Texas 75202

Dear Mr. Juarez:

In accordance with the mandates of Federal Regulation 661.200 (b) 7 to improve the services to youth provided by the State of Louisiana, we are requesting per Federal Regulation 664.220 a waiver of the 5% limitation allowed for non-disadvantaged youth being enrolled in WIA funded programs. This waiver request, specific to the Louisiana National Guard JOB CHALLENGE Program, would allow Louisiana to continue to build on what has proven to be one of the nation's most impressive Youth Training initiatives.

This residential program provides life skills, job skills and fitness training to youth. In addition to GED pursuit, participants receive health care, meals and drivers education. The cost per participant is \$4,000 and is paid based on performance, with payment of 90% upon completion of training. The remaining 10% is paid upon placement in a training related occupation, continuation of training, or enlistment in the military service. The contractor is not paid for participants who do not complete. The programs offer continued mentoring and follow-up support after completion and placement.

The initial program was designed to allow youth ages 16 to 19 to receive job skills training, after satisfactory completion of the National Guard program for at risk youth, Youth Challenge. It provides training in five job fields. The areas of training consist of welding, heavy equipment operation, food service, carpentry and nursing assistant. Private partners cooperating in this initial venture were The Associated Builders and Contractors, the Associated General Contractors of America, Piccadilly Cafeterias, Our Lady of the Lake College, local Chambers of Commerce and other business and industry partners.

Since that initial contract, the program has grown and added additional partners who provide funding, materials, instructors, equipment and job training opportunities, including paid work opportunities, during training. The funding for participants now comes from not only the state general funds and the La. Department of Labor, but also from Local Workforce Investment Areas and the Department of Social Services. Private sector involvement has increased with the addition of training in the fields of Office Operations, Petroleum Technology, Heavy Equipment Mechanics, Nursery Industry Web Based Marketing, A+ Personal Computer Technology,

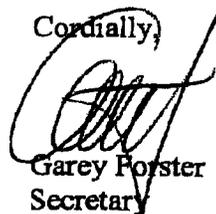
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Masonry, and Greens Keeping. A list of private sector contributors and their contributions is attached.

The programs operated for Louisiana's Youth by the Louisiana National Guard are being recognized nationwide as best practices. The JOB CHALLENGE Program is unique and would benefit greatly by being allowed to serve youth, who face barriers and are otherwise eligible, but would not be allowed to benefit due to family income status. Please give this request the consideration it is due.

For more information on this program you may contact Cecil Sandlin, Federal Training Program Chief at (225) 342-7631) or Col. Herbert P. Fritts, Commander at (225) 319-4670.

Cordially,



Garey Forster  
Secretary

GJF:RR:jkc

attachment

**Attachment**

Each of these private sector partners assists in issuing certification of satisfactory completion of training requirements to those participants who complete the components offered through the Job Challenge Program, and actively seek to employ many of the graduates.

Piccadilly Restaurants Inc.	Training site/paid apprenticeships and equipment
Louisiana Machinery	Heavy Equipment (Dozer/Backhoe/Grader etc. and tools to repair along with replacement parts.)
Stone Oil	1000 gallons of fuel for heavy equipment annually
Dow Chemical	\$10,000 for the purchase of diesel fuel
Bollinger Marine	Welding equipment
Turner Industries	Welding equipment
Southern Scrap	Plate metal for welding
EBI	Welding rods
LSU Golf Course	Instructor, training site and equipment
University Golf Course	Instructor, training site and equipment
Merchant's Masonry Inc.	Instructor, equipment and materials