



**STATE OF TENNESSEE
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT**

**Andrew Johnson Tower
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**PHIL BREDESEN
GOVERNOR**

**JAMES G. NEELEY
COMMISSIONER**

May 10, 2004

Ms. Christine Kulick
USDOL/ETA, Office of Workforce Investment
Division of One-Stop Operations
Room S4231, 200 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20210

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WIA

Dear Ms. Kulick:

The State of Tennessee is requesting an extension of a waiver granted by the U.S. Department of Labor March 9th, 2004. The requested waiver waived the provision of 20 CFR 664.510 to allow local areas to use individual training accounts for older and out-of-school youth participants. The waiver was approved and granted by USDOL through June 30, 2004.

Tennessee is requesting that this waiver remain in effect through June 30, 2005. As outlined in the original request this waiver:

1. offers flexibility in using youth funds for providing training for youth without using limited adult funds for older youth training,
2. enhances delivery of occupational skills training, and
3. promotes better customer choice for youth.

In several rural parts of our state access to qualified eligible training providers has been limited and this waiver provides youth with additional opportunities for post-secondary education either through the technology center or community college. This also creates a connection to the One-Stop System and services. This waiver will provide flexibility in not having to co-enroll a youth participant in both adult and youth funding streams which in turn creates a burden on staff and case worker's time.

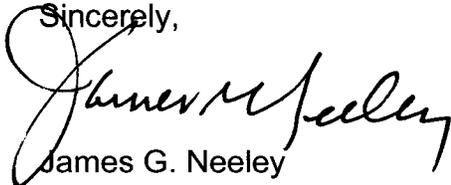
Currently, due to our waiver notice of approval granted March 9, 2004, our local areas had very little time to engage youth in this process as several local areas had obligated funds and committed dollars to their local youth providers, making access to ITA's

limited at best. The enthusiasm from our areas remains high to continue to explore ways of better providing for our youth and this waiver extension is a high priority.

On April 29-30 our State Workforce Board met to approve local area plans for next year and several areas indicated that they needed additional time to evaluate the effectiveness of this waiver and would benefit from an extension.

This request complies with Training and Employment Guidance Letter 21-03 and includes the original waiver request and approval letter as an attachment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James G. Neeley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J".

James G. Neeley

JGN:SVDS

cc: Gene Caso, Atlanta, Region III Office
Elaine Perryman, Administrator, Employment and Workforce Development
Susie Bourque, Employment and Training
Sterling van der Spuy, Employment and Training

Attachments