

STATE OF ALASKA

Department of Labor and Workforce Development

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

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April 13, 2012

Ms. Kimberly Vitelli
Division of Workforce System Support
Employment and Training Administration
U.S. Department of Labor
200 Constitution Ave., NW, Room S-4231
Washington, DC 20210

Dear Ms. Vitelli,

This letter respectfully requests an extension to Alaska's existing Workforce Investment Act Title I/Wagner-Peyser state stand-alone plan and Workforce Investment Act waivers, as listed below, to September 16, 2012.

This also advises that the state will use the additional time afforded until September 16, 2012, to develop an Integrated Workforce Plan, as defined in U.S. DOL, Employment and Training Administration March 27, 2012 Training and Employment Guidelines, 21-11.

Alaska last completed a comprehensive planning process in 2007. Since then, the state made numerous modifications to the existing plan that reflect incremental changes. Alaska understands that developing an Integrated Workforce Plan is critical for cross-program strategic planning efforts, which will address the governor's vision, provide for greater business, industry, and community involvement, and respond to a strengthened state workforce investment board.

Along with the plan extension, the state requests extension of the following Workforce Investment Act waivers:

- A waiver ("WIA regulations at 20 CFR 661.300(e) that allows the state board to carry out the roles of a local board);
- A waiver that grants authority to transfer up to 50 percent of funds between Adult and Dislocated Worker programs;
- A waiver to the requirement that employer contribute at least 50 percent for customized training;
- A waiver to increase employer reimbursement for on-the-job-training (OJT), allowing employer reimbursement for WIA participants in OJT according to the size of the business;
- A waiver accounting for seasonal employment in performance measures to address the challenge of serving seasonal workers;

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- A waiver extending the time limit on the period of initial eligibility for training providers on the Eligible Training Provider List;
- A waiver allowing flexibility in provision of training services to youth by waiving prohibition for youth to receive Individual Training Accounts, especially out-of-school youth who need specialized training to meet career goals; and
- A waiver to maintain the common measures and approved negotiated performance goals for Adult, Dislocated Worker, and Youth programs.

Please contact the Division of Business Partnerships' Director, Carine Geldhof at (907) 465-5937, or via e-mail, carine.geldhof@alaska.gov, should you have any questions regarding this request.

Sincerely,

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Acting Commissioner

cc: Ingrid Nyberg, Federal Project Officer, Region 6 Office of the Employment & Training Administration, LSDOL
Carine Geldhof, Director, Division of Business Partnerships, AK-DOLXID
Paul Dick, Director, Employment Security Division, AK-DOLWD
Jeff Selvey, Executive Director, Alaska Workforce Investment Board