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Serial: 354

Ms. Heather Fleck
Room S4209
U.S. Department of Labor
200 Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20210

RE: American Samoa State Plan and Waiver Extension Request for PY 2012

Dear Ms. Fleck:

On March 27, 2012, the USDOL Employment and Training Administration (ETA) issued a Training and Employment Guidance Letter, TEGL 21-11 "Instructions for Requirements for PY 2012 State Workforce Plan.

American Samoa's Territorial Strategic Plan for Title 1 of the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) will expire on June 30, 2012. In accordance with TEGL 21-11, the Territory of American Samoa is requesting the U.S. Department of Labor, ETA for a temporary extension of the currently approved PY 2011 Plan to PY 2012.

The Wagner-Peyser Act Program is not applicable to American Samoa at this time. Therefore, no extension is needed. The Territory is also requesting to extend the use of the performance goals for PY 2011 and the existing Waiver into PY 2012.

We are very proud of our commitment to support local flexibility awarded through the use of waivers to address local needs specific to our unique community. We are seeking a waiver extension which permits up to 90% reimbursement for On-the-Job Training. Reimbursement would be provided on a sliding scale based on employer use.

Up to 90% for employers with 50 or fewer employees; up to 75% for employees with 51 to 250 employees, for employers with 251 or more employees would remain at the 50% statutory level. The sliding scare will allow the Territory of American Samoa to encourage and expand the hiring of unemployed adults and dislocated workers who lack some of the skills needed to meet an employer's needs. It will provide them with opportunities for retooling of their skills and introduction to new technology while they return to the workplace and earn wages to support themselves and their families.

The Workforce Board and the WIA Administrative Entity, Department of Human Resources and its Partners will submit the Territorial WIA Workforce Integrated 5-Year Plan by September 7, 2012.

The additional time is needed to secure greater partnership with our partners that will take considerable planning time, effort and new partnerships. The extension of time for planning also includes the need to incorporate the various collaboration and partnership with our partners and service providers under the National Emergency Grant (NEG).

In closing, American Samoa's workforce development system is committed to improving the employability of our citizens in the Territory. We continue to remain dedicated to building and expanding relationships with employers and our Partners in support of economic development in the Territory.

Inquiries regarding the Territorial WIA Workforce Integrated 5-Year Plan may be directed to Ms. Makerita Enesi, Chief of Employment & Training Division, Department of Human Resources at (684) 633-4485 and at likapago@yahoo.com.

Sincerely,

TOGIOLA T.A. TULAFONO
Governor of American Samoa

xc: Regional Administrator, Region 6
John Jacobs, Federal Project Officer, Region 6
Evelyn V. Langford, Director-DHR, American Samoa Government
Apisa Pete Galea'i, Chairman, American Samoa Workforce Board