



The Honorable Mike Beebe
Governor of Arkansas
State Capitol Building
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201

Dear Governor Beebe:

This letter provides approval of an extension of Arkansas's current Workforce Investment Act (WIA) and Wagner-Peyser Act (W-P) State Plan for Program Year (PY) 2011. This letter also provides approval of extensions for Arkansas's waivers. Training and Employment Guidance Letter (TEGL) No. 17-10, issued on December 30, 2010, provides guidance for states to secure approval of their WIA/W-P State Plans and waivers for PY 2011.

Extension of State Plan

Arkansas's existing State Plan will expire on June 30, 2011. This letter constitutes a written determination under WIA Section 112 (29 USC 2822) that the Employment and Training Administration (ETA) is extending the approval of Arkansas's State Plan for WIA Title I and the Wagner-Peyser Act for PY 2011, July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012. The State has already received its formula allotment for the WIA Youth program for PY 2011. The State is eligible to receive WIA formula allotments for Adult and Dislocated Worker programs and W-P initial base program allotments under the PY 2011 annual funding agreement for WIA and the PY 2011/Fiscal Year 2012 annual funding agreement for W-P.

Performance Levels

Arkansas requested to extend its existing PY 2010 WIA and W-P performance goals for PY 2011. ETA has incorporated these performance goals, identified as PY 2011 performance goals, into the Regional and National Office copies of the State Plan. Please include these PY 2011 goals in the State's official copy of the State Plan.

Waivers

As part of the State's extension of the WIA/W-P State Plan, and as described in TEGL No. 17-10, the State requested extensions of Arkansas's PY 2010 waivers of statutory and regulatory requirements under WIA for PY 2011. The disposition of the State's waiver extensions is outlined below. This action is taken under the Secretary's authority at WIA Section 189(i) to waive certain requirements of WIA Title I, Subtitles B and E, and Sections 8-10 of the Wagner-Peyser Act.

Waiver of WIA Section 133(b)(4) to increase the allowable transfer amount between Adult and Dislocated Worker funding streams allocated to a local area.

The State was previously granted a waiver to permit an increase in the amount a state is allowed to transfer between the Adult and Dislocated Worker funding streams. The State is granted an extension of this waiver through June 30, 2012. Under the waiver, transfer authority is limited to 50 percent. This limitation provides states flexibility while ensuring consistency with Congressional intent regarding the level of funding appropriated for the WIA Adult and Dislocated Worker programs.

Waiver to permit the State to replace the performance measures at WIA Section 136(b) with the common measures.

The State was previously granted a waiver that allows the State to replace the 17 performance measures under WIA Section 136(b) with the common measures. The State is granted an extension of this waiver through June 30, 2012.

This waiver permits the State to negotiate and report WIA outcomes against the common performance measures only, rather than the performance measures described at WIA Section 136(b). The State will no longer negotiate and report to ETA on the following WIA measures: WIA adult and dislocated worker credential rates; participant and employer customer satisfaction; older youth measures; and younger youth measures. The State will use the three adult common performance measures to negotiate goals and report outcomes for the WIA Adult and WIA Dislocated Worker programs. The State will use the three youth common performance measures to negotiate goals and report outcomes for the WIA Youth program. Workforce Investment Act Standardized Record Data system (WIASRD) item 619, Type of Recognized Credential, should be completed for each individual as appropriate, regardless of this waiver to report on common performance measure outcomes only.

Waiver of the provision at 20 CFR 663.530 that prescribes a time limit on the period of initial eligibility for training providers.

The State was previously granted a waiver of the time limit on the period of initial eligibility of training providers provided at 20 CFR 663.530. The State is granted an extension of this waiver through June 30, 2012. Under the waiver, the State is allowed to postpone the determination of subsequent eligibility of training providers. The waiver also allows the State to provide an opportunity for training providers to re-enroll and be considered enrolled as initially eligible providers.

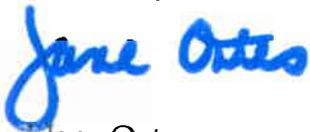
Waiver of the prohibition at 20 CFR 664.510 on the use of Individual Training Accounts for older and out-of-school youth.

The State was previously granted a waiver of the prohibition at 20 CFR 664.510 on the use of Individual Training Accounts (ITAs) for older youth and out-of-school youth program participants. The State is granted an extension of this waiver through June 30, 2012. Under this waiver, the State can use ITAs for older youth and out-of-school youth program participants. The State must continue to make the 10 youth program elements available as described at WIA Section 129(c)(2). The State should ensure that funds used for ITAs are tracked and that the ITAs are reflected in the individual service strategies for these youth.

The approved waivers are incorporated by reference into the State's WIA Grant Agreement, as provided for under paragraph 3 of the executed Agreement, and this constitutes a modification of the State Plan. A copy of this letter should be filed with the State's WIA Grant Agreement and the approved State Plan. In addition, as described in TEGP No. 09-10, page 3, the State should address the impact these waivers have had on the State's performance in the WIA annual performance report, due on October 1 of each year.

We look forward to working together as you implement your State Plan for PY 2011. If you have any questions related to the issues discussed above, please contact Marilyn Brandenburg, the Federal Project Officer for Arkansas, at (972) 850-4617 or Brandenburg.Marilyn@dol.gov.

Sincerely,



Jane Oates
Assistant Secretary

Enclosure

cc: Joseph C. Juarez, Regional Administrator, ETA Dallas Regional Office
Marilyn Brandenburg, Federal Project Officer for Arkansas



State of Arkansas
Department of
WORKFORCE SERVICES

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Mike Beebe
Governor

Artee Williams
Director

March 16, 2011

Mr. Joseph C. Juarez
Regional Administrator
U.S. Department of Labor
525 S. Griffin Street, Room 317
Dallas, Texas 75202

Dear Mr. Juarez:

Pursuant to TEGL 17-10, this letter serves as notification that the State of Arkansas is requesting a one-year extension for the current state Workforce Investment Act (WIA) and Wagner-Peyser state plan and current waivers. At this time, the state wishes to continue the negotiated PY 2009 performance goals for WIA and Wagner-Peyser through PY 2011.

The Arkansas Workforce Investment Board approved this extension request at their regular quarterly meeting on February 15, 2011. The public will be notified of the state's intentions of extending the existing plan, waivers, and negotiated performance goals.

Should you have any questions or require additional information, please contact me at (501) 682-2121.

Sincerely,


Artee Williams