



MAR - 7 2013

The Honorable Togiola Tulafono
Governor of American Samoa
Executive Office Building
Third Floor
Utulei, Pago Pago, American Samoa 96799

Dear Governor Tulafono:

We are pleased to respond to your request for a waiver of statutory and regulatory requirements under the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) submitted on January 23, 2013. This request is written in the format identified in WIA section 189(i)(4)(B) and 20 CFR 661.420(c), and meets the standard for approval at 20 CFR 661.420(e). The following is the disposition of the Territory's submission (copy enclosed). This action is taken under the Secretary's authority to waive certain requirements of WIA Title I, Subtitles B and E, and sections 8-10 of the Wagner-Peyser Act.

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

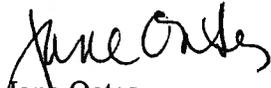
The Territory is requesting a waiver that allows the Territory to replace the 17 performance measures under WIA Section 136(b) with the common measures. The Territory is granted this waiver through June 30, 2017.

This waiver permits American Samoa to negotiate and report WIA outcomes against the common performance measures only, rather than the performance measures described at WIA Section 136(b). The Territory 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 Territory will use the three adult common performance measures to negotiate goals and report outcomes for the WIA Adult and WIA Dislocated Worker programs. The Territory 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.

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

We look forward to continuing our partnership with you and achieving better workforce outcomes. If you have any questions related to the issues discussed above, please contact Janice Shordike, the Federal Project Officer for American Samoa, at (415) 625-7943 or Shordike.Janice@dol.gov.

Sincerely,


Jane Oates
Assistant Secretary

Enclosure

cc: Virginia Hamilton, Regional Administrator, ETA San Francisco Regional Office
Janice Shordike, Federal Project Officer for American Samoa



DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES
AMERICAN SAMOA GOVERNMENT
PAGO PAGO, AMERICAN SAMOA 96799

Territory of American Samoa
Workforce Investment Act Waiver Request
Waiver to Replace Statutory Performance Measures with Common Measures

Date: January 4, 2013
State: Territory of American Samoa
Agency: Department of Human Resources, Employment & Training Division

Statutory and/or Regulatory Requirements To Be Waived

American Samoa is requesting to implement the Common Measures and Waive the current statutory requirement of the 17 performance indicator.

Actions Undertaken To Remove State Or Local Barriers

There are no state or local statutory or regulatory barriers to implementing the waiver.

Goals and Expected Programmatic Outcomes Of Waiver

- Improve services to youth and increase focus on out-of-school youth.
- Reduces administrative costs by eliminating paperwork and labor costs associated with performance data collection.
- Provides a more useful program management tool.
- Provides for customer-driven instead of program-driven outcomes.
- Provide an opportunity for the Territory to better implement the USDOL's Youth Vision

Approval of this waiver will continue to streamline administrative processes, allowing the Department of Human Resources-Employment and Training (DHR-ETD) to focus the maximum amount of resources on employment outcomes. This waiver will further DHR-ETD's implementation of the federal goal to simplify and streamline the performance accountability system.

Approval of this waiver request will also allow DHR-ETD to improve consistency and reliability of data, and foster greater flexibility when negotiating performance measures with the Workforce Development Commission of American Samoa (WDCAS). In addition, limiting performance reporting to the Common Measures will simplify service delivery as well as data collection, reporting, and validation at the local level.

Individuals Impacted By the Waiver

Employers, job seekers, Territory and local staff will benefit from this waiver. The implementation of integrated Common Measures will allow staff to better focus on the needs of employers, find job seekers to match those, and maximize integrated services to achieve the best outcomes. The waiver will provide accountability while improving program management and performance.

Implementing the Common Measures will increase focus in youth programs on education and skill attainment. Focusing only on Youth Common Measures will remove a significant barrier by aligning the Territory's WIA Youth program with DHR-ETD's vision of serving at-risk out-of-school-youth, as well as fostering youths' long-term connections to the workforce system. The hardest-to-serve youth groups, such as former incarcerated youth, and current and former foster care youth, have derived the most benefit from long-term connection to the workforce.

Process For Monitoring Progress In Implementation

DHR-ETD will continue to monitor progress under this waiver by reviewing monthly performance through monitoring and performance accountability reports that measure results. Adjustments will continue to be made by monitoring performance requirements to ensure performance goals and objectives are met. Information regarding the reporting system and the waiver will be shared with the Workforce Development Commission of American Samoa (WDCAS) through training and technical assistance, the distribution of policy through Workforce Development Policies and Issuances and regularly administrative WIA meetings.

Notice to Affected Local Boards

American Samoa is a single service delivery area and the Workforce Commission of American Samoa (WDCAS) has local board responsibilities. The draft waiver is posted on the American Samoa Government (ASG) Website www.americansaoa.gov and all WDCAS members were notified for their review and comment. The waiver request was posted on the ASG website on January 7, 2013.

Public Comment

The proposed Waiver requested were made available for public comment on January 7, 2013 at www.americansamoa.gov website. Any comments received will be forwarded to ETA Regional Office. Closing date for public comments is January 16, 2013.