



JUN 30 2014

The Honorable Lincoln D. Chafee  
Governor of Rhode Island  
State Capitol Building  
82 Smith Street  
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

Dear Governor Chafee:

The Employment and Training Administration (ETA) is pleased to respond to your requests for waivers of statutory and regulatory requirements under the Workforce Investment Act (WIA). 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. The original requests were written in the format identified in WIA section 189(i)(4)(B) and 20 CFR 661.420(c), and meet the standard for approval at 20 CFR 661.420(e). The following is the disposition of the State's waiver extension requests (copy enclosed).

Waiver of WIA Section 134(a)(B)(ii) and 20 CFR 665.200(d) to exempt the State from the requirement to conduct evaluations.

The State has requested an extension of the waiver of the requirement to conduct evaluations of workforce investment activities for adults, dislocated workers, and youth in order to establish and promote continuous improvement of the statewide workforce investment system. The State is granted an extension of this waiver effective July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015. ETA views this waiver as a temporary measure associated with the impact of recent annual reductions in Governor's reserve funds. ETA will reconsider approval of this waiver on an annual basis.

Waiver of WIA Section 134(a)(2)(B)(iii) and 20 CFR 665.200(e) to exempt a State from the requirement to provide local workforce investment area incentive grants.

The State has requested an extension of the requirement to provide local workforce investment areas incentive grants to reward regional cooperation, local coordination of activities, and exemplary performance. The State is granted an extension of this waiver effective July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015. ETA views this waiver as a temporary measure associated with the impact of recent annual reductions in Governor's reserve funds. ETA will reconsider approval of this waiver on an annual basis.

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 required by Training and Employment Guidance Letter No. 29-11, the State should address the impact this waiver has had on the State's 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 Danielle Worthen-Ramos, the Federal Project Officer for Rhode Island, at (617) 788-0314 and [Worthen-Ramos.Daniel@dol.gov](mailto:Worthen-Ramos.Daniel@dol.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Portia Wu", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Portia Wu  
Assistant Secretary

Enclosure

cc: Holly O'Brien, Regional Administrator, ETA Boston Regional Office  
Danielle Worthen-Ramos, Federal Project Officer for Rhode Island



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS

**Department of Labor and Training**

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Lincoln D. Chafee  
Governor  
Charles J. Fogarty  
Director

May 12, 2014

Ms. Heather Fleck  
Federal Coordinator for Plan Review and Approval  
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. Fleck:

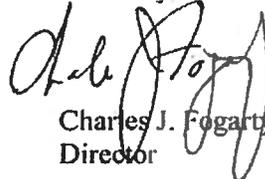
In accordance with Training and Employment Guidance Letter (TEGL) 18-13, dated April 3, 2014, the State of Rhode Island is requesting an extension of the following Workforce Investment Act (WIA) waivers:

- o Waiver of WIA Section 134 (a)(2)(B)(ii) and 20 CFR 665.200(d) to exempt the state from the requirement to conduct evaluations.
- o Waiver of WIA Section 134(a)(2)(B)(iii) and 20 CFR 665.200(e) to exempt the state from the requirement to provide incentive grants to local workforce investment areas.

The circumstances that prompted the need to originally request these waivers (reduction in funding of the Governor's Reserve from 15% to 8.75% for Program Year 2014) have not substantially changed and these waivers will expire on June 30, 2014. Therefore, in order to continue to prioritize the use of the Governor's Reserve fund for the required activities deemed most essential to the operation of the workforce system, we respectfully request that these waivers be extended. A public comment period regarding these waivers was held; no comments were received.

Thank you in advance for your prompt and favorable response to this request. If you should have any questions, please contact me.

Sincerely,



Charles J. Fogarty  
Director

CJF:dmt:mm

Cc: Holly O'Brien, Region 1 Administrator  
Kathleen McLaughlin, Rhode Island Federal Projects Officer