U.S. Department of Labor

Assistant Secretary for
Employment and Training
Washington, D.C. 20210

AUG 5 2014

The Honorable Rick Snyder
Governor of Michigan
P.O. Box 30013
Lansing, Michigan 48909

Dear Governor Synder:

The Employment and Training Administration (ETA) is pleased to respond to your request 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. On July 22, 2014, the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) was enacted. Many of WIOA's provisions take effect on July 1, 2015, but the existing WIA state and local plan provisions remain in effect until July 1, 2016. ETA is conducting a review of WIOA's implementation timeline and provisions, and will be issuing guidance in the future regarding the new State Unified Plan provisions and waivers as part of its implementation actions. Current WIA Waiver approval timelines have been adjusted in accordance with the expected end date (June 30, 2016) for the existing WIA State Plans; however, the waivers below are reviewed annually.

The State's recent WIA waiver requests are 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 requests (copy enclosed).

<u>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</u>.

The State is requesting an extension of a 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 through June 30, 2015.

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

The State is requesting an extension of a waiver 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 through June 30, 2015.

Waiver of WIA Section 129(b)(2)(C) and 20 CFR 665.200(h) to exempt the State from the requirement to provide additional assistance to local areas that have a high concentration of eligible youth.

The State is requesting an extension of a waiver of the requirement to provide additional assistance to local areas that have a high concentration of eligible youth. The State is granted an extension of this waiver through June 30, 2015.

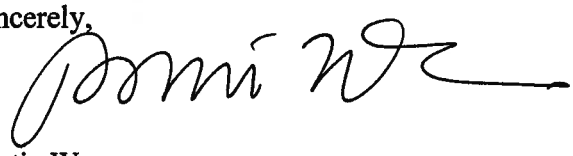
Waiver of WIA Section 133(b)(4) to increase the allowable transfer amount between Adult and Dislocated Worker funding streams allocated to a local area.

The State is requesting an extension of a waiver to permit an increase in the amount a state is allowed to transfer between the Adult and Dislocated Worker funding streams. To help mitigate the effects of funding reductions in many local areas, the State is requesting to increase the transfer authority to 75 percent. The State is granted an extension of this waiver to transfer up to 75 percent between the Adult and Dislocated Worker funding streams through June 30, 2015. Under this waiver the State must identify indicators or information gathering it will use to track improved outcomes, and report the results of the waiver in the WIA Annual Report, especially how services were maintained for both Adult and Dislocated Worker populations.

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 TEGL No. 06-13, 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 continuing our partnership with you and achieving better workforce outcomes. If you have any questions related to the issues discussed above, please contact Malcom Jackson, the Federal project officer for Michigan, at (312) 596-5414 or Jackson.Malcom@dol.gov.

Sincerely,



Portia Wu
Assistant Secretary

Enclosure

cc: Byron Zuidema, Regional Administrator, ETA Chicago Regional Office
Malcom Jackson, Federal Project Officer for Michigan

RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

Michigan WDA
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

CHRISTINE QUINN
DIRECTOR

June 23, 2014

E-mailed: 6/23/2014 (tk)

Mr. Byron Zuidema, Regional Administrator
Employment & Training Administration
U.S. Department of Labor (USDOL)
230 South Dearborn Street, Room 628
Chicago, Illinois 60604

Dear Mr. Zuidema:

The State of Michigan is submitting a modification request to our Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Wagner-Peyser State Plan. This request is submitted in accordance with Training and Employment Guidance Letter (TEGL) No. 18-13, issued on April 3, 2014. Specifically, the State of Michigan is seeking a request for an extension to our existing Program Year (PY) 2013 waivers, currently set to expire on June 30, 2014, see attachment.

The waivers will continue to assist the State to further develop our workforce investment system and ensure that Michigan may prioritize the use of its Governor's Reserve funds for the required activities deemed most essential to the basic functions of the workforce investment system. Additionally, the statutory waiver requests will maximize the impact of reduced WIA dollars, as well as, provide greater flexibility and increased capacity to respond to employers' and participants' training needs. This request is being made under the Secretary's authority at the WIA Section 189(i) to waive certain requirements of the WIA Title I, Subtitles B and E, and Sections 8-10 of the Wagner-Peyser Act.

Your review and immediate consideration of this extension request is appreciated. Please contact me with questions.

Sincerely,

SIGNED

Christine Quinn, Director
Workforce Development Agency

CQ:JC:tk
Attachment

cc:	Corey Bulluck	Stephanie Beckhorn
	Malcom Jackson	Krista Johnson
	Mike Pohnl	Janice Cooper
	Mike Wurmlinger	Chelsea Mates

Victor Office Center | 201 North Washington Square, 5th Floor | Lansing, Michigan 48913
517.335.5858 | TTY 888.605.6722

WDA is an equal opportunity employer/program. Auxiliary aids, services, and other reasonable accommodations are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.

Attachment

The State of Michigan seeks approval of an extension of the following statutory waivers in accordance with the WIA Section 189(i)(4)(B) and the WIA Regulations at 20 CFR 661.420(c) for Program Year (PY) 2014. These waiver requests will assist Michigan to further develop our workforce investment system while continuing to align our workforce development efforts. These requests are made under the Secretary's authority at the WIA Section 189(i) to waive certain requirements of the WIA Title I, Subtitles B and E, and Sections 8-10 of the Wagner-Peyser Act.

- Waiver of the WIA Section 134(a)(2)(B)(ii) and 20 CFR 665.200(d) to exempt the State from 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 will continue to measure customer satisfaction as described in the WIA Section 136(B)(2)(B).

- Waiver of the WIA Section 134(a)(2)(B)(iii) and 20 CFR 665.200(e) to exempt the State from the requirement to provide local workforce investment area incentive grants to reward regional cooperation, local coordination of activities, and exemplary performance.

- Waiver of the WIA Section 129(b)(2)(C) and 20 CFR 665.200(h) to exempt the State from the requirement to provide additional assistance to local areas that have a high concentration of eligible youth.

- Waiver of the WIA Section 133(b)(4) to increase the allowable transfer amount between the Adult and Dislocated Worker funding streams allocated to a local area to 75 percent.

In accordance with the WIA regulations at 20 CFR 661.230(d), which provides requirements of public review and comment, Michigan's waiver request is posted at http://www.michigan.gov/wda/0,5303,7-304-64178---,00.html for comment and review by local Workforce Development Boards and the general public.

Copies of this waiver request were provided to all local boards and their association. Any comment received will be forwarded to the USDOL and included as a modification to the State's Comprehensive Five-Year Plan, and their impact on the State's performance will be addressed in the State's PY 2014 WIA annual performance report.

RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

Michigan WDA
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

CHRISTINE QUINN
DIRECTOR

June 23, 2014

E-mailed: 6/23/2014 (tk)

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