

The Honorable Benigno R. Fitial
Governor of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Caller Box 10007
Capital Hill
Saipan, MP 96950

Dear Governor Fitial:

This letter provides approval of an extension of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands' (CNMI) current Workforce Investment Act (WIA) and Wagner-Peyser Act (W-P) State Plan and waivers for Program Year (PY) 2010.

Training and Employment Guidance Letter (TEGL) No. 21-09, issued on April 15, 2010, provides guidance for states and territories to secure approval of their WIA/W-P State Plans and waivers for PY 2010, and included the option to receive an extension of the existing State Plan and waivers for an additional year without submitting a formal request.

Extension of State Plan

CNMI's existing State Plan will expire on June 30, 2010. 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 CNMI's State Plan for WIA Title I and the Wagner-Peyser Act for Program Year 2010, July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011.

The Grant Officer will issue a Notice of Obligation for the "July portion" of the WIA formula allocations for Adult and Dislocated Worker programs, effective July 1, 2010, under the PY 2010 Annual Funding Agreement. The W-P programs annual funding agreement for PY 2010/Fiscal Year 2011 will be sent to the designated grantee agency for signature and return to the Grant Officer for execution, effective July 1, 2010. The W-P annual funding agreement will provide for the initial base allocation of PY 2010 funds.

Performance Levels

CNMI has decided to extend its existing PY 2009 WIA and W-P performance goals for PY 2010. ETA has incorporated these performance goals, identified as PY 2010 performance goals, into the Regional and National Office copies of the State Plan. Please include these PY 2010 goals in the Commonwealth's official copy of the State Plan.

Waivers

As part of the Commonwealth's extension of the WIA/W-P State Plan, and as described in TEGL 21-09, ETA has made determinations regarding an extension of CNMI's PY 2009 waivers of statutory and regulatory requirements under WIA for PY 2010. The disposition of the Commonwealth'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. Unless otherwise indicated, all waiver approvals that follow apply to both WIA formula funds and funds made available under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

Waiver Extension: 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 Commonwealth 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 Commonwealth is granted an extension of this waiver through June 30, 2011. 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. As stated in ETA Training and Employment Guidance Letter (TEGL) No. 14-08, Section 19, issued on March 18, 2009, this waiver does not apply to funds made available through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. However, the Commonwealth is permitted to transfer up to 30 percent of ARRA funds between programs under WIA and under the Department of Labor Appropriations Act of 2009. This authority is discussed in TEGL No. 14-08, Change 1.

The approved waiver is incorporated by reference into the Commonwealth'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 Commonwealth's WIA Grant Agreement and the approved State Plan. In addition, as required by TEGL No. 14-00, Change 3, the Commonwealth should address the impact this waiver has had on the Commonwealth'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 2010. If you have any questions related to the issues discussed above, please contact John Jacobs, the Federal Project Officer for CNMI, at (415) 625-7940 and Jacobs.John@dol.gov.

Sincerely,

Jane Oates
Assistant Secretary

cc: Ms. Daisy C. Villagomes-Biers, Secretary, Department of Community and Cultural Affairs
Ms. Edith Deleon Guerrero, WIA Administrator, Workforce Investment Agency
Richard Trigg, Regional Administrator, ETA San Francisco Regional Office
Janet Sten, Federal Coordinator for Plan Review and Approval
Thomas Martin, Grant Officer
John Jacobs, Federal Project Officer for CNMI