



STATE OF WASHINGTON
EMPLOYMENT SECURITY DEPARTMENT

PO Box 9046 • Olympia WA 98507-9046

April 11, 2012

Assistant Secretary Jane Oates
Employment & Training Administration
United States Department of Labor
200 Constitution Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20210

Dear Assistant Secretary Oates:

Per Training and Employment Guidance Letter 21-11, Washington respectfully requests a temporary extension of its existing, currently-approved PY 2011 Workforce Investment Act/Wagner-Peyser State Plan, negotiated performance targets, and three WIA waivers (waiver of competitive procurement requirements for the youth program, waiver of prohibition on youth ITAs, and waiver of WIA performance measures in lieu of federal common measures) until September 15, 2012.

As you may be aware, Washington's legislature has mandated a state level workforce investment strategic plan that extends beyond those programs funded by the Workforce Investment Act and US Department of Labor (Revised Code of Washington 28C.18.080). Washington's Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board, which serves as the state's Workforce Investment Board, is charged with ensuring the alignment of and a common strategic vision for both federally and state funded workforce training programs. The state's workforce development strategic plan, *High Skills, High Wages*, is currently being updated with the goal of Board approval in fall 2012.

The opportunity to extend the state's WIA/Wagner-Peyser State Plan will allow the state to ensure strategic alignment of both plans and better coordination at the state and local levels of all programs designed to support citizens in obtaining family wage jobs. The time afforded by the extension will enable the state's WIA/Wagner-Peyser partners to influence the direction and objectives in the state's workforce development strategic plan and subsequently align the state's new Integrated Workforce Plan with *High Skills, High Wages* as well as gather more thorough and thoughtful stakeholder input and foster greater involvement of partners in all workforce investment programs operated within Washington.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. If you, or your staff, have any questions or concerns regarding this request, please contact Anne Goranson, Assistant Commissioner, WorkSource Standards & Integration Division, at 360/725-9475 or agoranson@esd.wa.gov.

Respectfully,

Paul Trause
Commissioner

cc: Eleni Papadakis, Executive Director, Workforce Training & Education Coordinating Board
Todd Yamamoto, Acting Regional Administrator, US DOL/ETA Region 6
Dana Durfee, Federal Program Officer, US DOL/ETA Region 6
Heather Fleck, Federal Coordinator, US DOL/ETA National Office