



March 20, 2012

E-mailed: 03/20/12 (pv)

Federal Coordinator  
Division of Workforce Investment System Support  
Employment and Training Administration (ETA)  
U.S. Department of Labor (USDOL)  
200 Constitution Avenue NW, Room S-4231  
Washington, D.C. 20210

Byron Zuidema  
Regional Administrator  
Employment and Training Administration  
U.S. Department of Labor  
230 South Dearborn Street, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Chicago, Illinois 60604

Attention: Federal Coordinator for Plan Review and Approval

State: Michigan

Agency: Workforce Development Agency, State of Michigan  
Office of Talent Development Services  
201 North Washington Square, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Lansing, Michigan 48913

RE: Waiver Request Submission

Dear Federal Coordinator:

The Workforce Development Agency, State of Michigan, is requesting a waiver of the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) requirement to conduct evaluations of the workforce investment activities for adults, dislocated workers, and youth. This waiver request applies to Program Year 2011, effective July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012.

The proposed waiver request was developed in accordance with Training Employment and Guidance Letter 09-11, published October 26, 2011.

Statutory and/or regulatory requirements to be waived:

- Waiver of the WIA Section 134(a)(2)(B)(ii) and 20 CFR 665.200(d) requirement to conduct evaluations of WIA activities for adult, dislocated worker, and youth



Workforce Development Agency, State of Michigan  
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Actions undertaken to remove state or local barriers:

- There are no state or local barriers.

Goals and programmatic outcomes of waiver:

- The reduction to five percent in the WIA allotment for Program Year 2011 Governor's Reserve funds restricts the State's ability to effectively fund and carry out all of the required statewide workforce investment activities. The current funding level on the Governor's Reserve is insufficient to cover the cost of evaluations.

The State's reduced funds are being used to cover the following required activities under WIA 20 CFR 665.200 (d):

- A) Required rapid response activities, as described in Section 665.310;
- B) Disseminating:
  - 1) The State list of eligible providers of training services (including those providing non-traditional training services), for adults and dislocated workers;
  - 2) Information identifying eligible providers of on-the-job training and customized training;
  - 3) The list of eligible providers of youth activities as described in WIA Section 123;
- C) Providing incentive grants for exemplary performance by local areas on the performance measures;
- D) Operating a fiscal and management accountability information system, based on guidelines established by the Secretary after consultation with the Governors, chief elected officials, and One-Stop partners, as required by WIA Section 136(f); (WIA Sections 129(b)(2), 134(a)(2), and 136(e)(2));
- E) Submitting required reports (WIA Section 136(f));
- F) Providing technical assistance to local areas that fail to meet local performance measures;
- G) Assisting in the establishment and operation of One-Stop delivery systems in accordance with the strategy described in the State Workforce Investment Plan (WIA Section 112(b)(140)); and
- H) Providing additional assistance to local areas that have high concentrations of eligible youth.

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Our goal in seeking this waiver is to ensure that the State may prioritize the use of Governor's Reserve funds for the required activities we deem most essential to the basic functions of the workforce investment system.

Individuals Impacted by the Waiver:

- This waiver will provide the State agency with more flexibility in directing Governor's Reserve funds to those activities that best preserve the functions of the statewide workforce investment system.

Process for monitoring progress in implementation:

- The State will monitor progress and ensure accountability for federal funds in connection with these waivers by reviewing quarterly expenditure, performance, and other reports through regular contact with the ETA Regional Office liaisons and through its monitoring and performance accountability system.

Notice to affected local boards:

- This waiver request was distributed by e-mail to all Michigan Works! Agency Directors and the Michigan Works! Association.

Public Comment:

- This waiver request is posted on the Workforce Development Agency, State of Michigan Web site at: <http://www.michiganadvantage.org/Public-Notices-Requests-for-Proposals/>. If comments are received during the comment period, they will be carefully considered and forwarded to the USDOL.

Your review and immediate consideration of this waiver request is appreciated. Please contact Mr. Gary Clark, Director of the Office of Talent Development Services, at (517) 241-2729 with questions.

Sincerely,



Michael Pohnl, Interim Director  
Workforce Development Agency

MP:JC:pv

cc: Adele Gagliardi, Regional Director, United States Department of Labor  
Malcom Jackson, Federal Project Officer, United States Department of Labor  
Janet Howard, Deputy Director, Strategic Planning, Operations, Policy and Finance  
Gary Clark, Director, Office of Talent Development Services  
Stephanie Beckhorn, Manager, Workforce Investment Act Section  
Joe Billig, Manager, Management Information Systems  
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Chelsea Mates, Workforce Investment Act Analyst