

Ms. Jane Oates
Assistant Secretary Employment & Training Administration
U.S. Department of Labor
200 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington D.C. 20210

April 16, 2012

Dear Ms. Oates:

Minnesota's Unified Plan will expire on June 30, 2012. Minnesota is requesting a temporary extension to our current unified plan in order to collaborate in the design of a comprehensive five-year strategy for our workforce investment system. The unified plan will encompass multiple programs across a number of state agencies.

Minnesota is also requesting an extension of the PY11 negotiated performance goals to PY12. Staff will be prepared to negotiate new performance targets with USDOL during this time frame. Likewise, we are requesting an extension of our PY2011 statutory waivers and regulatory requirements under WIA to PY12 to include:

1. Waiver of WIA Section 134(a)(2)(B)(ii) and 20 CFR 665.200(d) to exempt the state from the requirements to conduct evaluations.
2. Waiver of WIA Section 134(a)(2)(B)(iii) and 20 CFR to exempt the state from the requirement to provide local workforce investment area incentive grants.
3. Waiver of 20CFR 665.200(b)(3) to exempt the state from the requirement to disseminate training provider performance and cost information.
4. Waiver of the required 50 percent employer contribution for customized training at WIA Section 101(8)(C).
5. Waiver of WIA Section 101(31)(B) to increase the employer reimbursement for on-the-job-training.
6. 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.
7. Waiver of WIA Section 134(a) to permit local areas to use a portion of local funds for incumbent worker training.
8. Waiver of WIA Section 134(a)(1)(A) to permit a portion of the funds reserved for rapid response activities to be used for incumbent worker training.
9. Waiver of the prohibition at 20 CFR 664.510 on the use of Individual Training Accounts for older and out-of-school youth.
10. Waiver of the prohibition at 20 SFR 663.530 that prescribes a time limit on the period of initial eligibility for training providers.
11. Waiver of performance measures for youth participants in summer youth employment activities and co-enrolled in TANF and WIA programs.

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In addition, Minnesota is submitting three new waiver requests which are attached to this letter:

1. Waiver of 20CFR 664.310 to allow youth who are enrolled in alternative school programs as part of a sequential service strategy at the time of WIA enrollment to be considered dropouts/out-of-school youth.
2. Waiver of performance measures at WIA Section 136(b)(2)(A) for youth participants in summer youth employment activities and co-enrolled in TANF and WIA programs.
3. Waiver of certain youth program design elements at WIA Section 129 for youth participants in summer youth employment activities and co-enrolled in TANF and WIA programs.

Minnesota will submit its five-year plan on September 17, 2012. The additional time is necessary to collaborate with multiple programs across a number of state agencies in a transparent manner. It is the governor's intent to have a broad stakeholder consultation including businesses.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bonnie Elsey".

Bonnie Elsey
Director Workforce Development

cc: Byron Zuidema