



JUN 14 2012

The Honorable Terry Branstad
Governor of Iowa
State Capitol
Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0001

Dear Governor Branstad:

This letter provides approval of an extension of Iowa's current Workforce Investment Act (WIA) and Wagner-Peyser Act (W-P) State Plan for a portion of Program Year (PY) 2012. This letter also provides approval of extensions for Iowa's current waivers. Training and Employment Guidance Letter (TEGL) No. 21-11, issued on March 27, 2012, provides guidance for states to secure approval of their WIA/W-P State Plans and waivers for PY 2012. In accordance with TEGL No. 21-11 and your extension request, the State must submit a full five-year WIA/W-P State Plan and annual W-P Agricultural Outreach Plan by September 15, 2012.

Extension of State Plan

Iowa's existing State Plan will expire on June 30, 2012. This letter constitutes a written determination under WIA Section 112 (29 USC 2822) that the Employment and Training Administration (ETA) is temporarily extending the approval of Iowa's State Plan for WIA Title I and the Wagner-Peyser Act into PY 2012, for the period July 1, 2012 through December 31, 2012. The State already received its formula allotment for the WIA Youth program for PY 2012. The State is eligible to receive WIA formula allotments for the Adult and Dislocated Worker programs under the PY 2012 Annual Funding Agreement. The W-P Annual Funding Agreement for PY 2012/Fiscal Year 2013 will provide the W-P Act initial base allocation of PY 2012 funds.

Performance Levels

Iowa requested to temporarily extend its existing PY 2011 WIA and W-P performance goals for a portion of PY 2012. ETA has incorporated these performance goals, identified as PY 2012 performance goals, into the Regional and National Office copies of the State Plan. Please include these PY 2012 goals in the State's official copy of the State Plan. As required by TEGL 21-11, the State must renegotiate its new PY 2012 goals upon submission of its full State Plan.

Waivers

As part of the State's extension of the WIA/W-P Act State Plan, and as described in TEGL No. 21-11, the State requested temporary extensions of Iowa's PY 2011 waivers of statutory and regulatory requirements under WIA for PY 2012. The disposition of the State'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.

Extension of Waivers

Waiver of the provision at 20 CFR 663.530 that prescribes a time limit on the period of initial eligibility for training providers.

The State was previously granted a waiver of the time limit on the period of initial eligibility of training providers provided at 20 CFR 663.530. The State is granted an extension of this waiver through December 31, 2012. Under the waiver, the State is allowed to postpone the determination of subsequent eligibility of training providers. The waiver also allows the State to provide an opportunity for training providers to re-enroll and be considered enrolled as initially eligible providers.

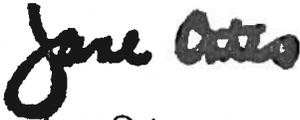
Waiver of WIA Section 133(b)(4) to increase the allowable transfer amount between Adult and Dislocated Worker funding streams allocated to a local area.

The State 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 State is granted an extension of this waiver through December 31, 2012. 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.

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 described in TEGL No. 29-11, the State should address the impact that 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 receiving your full State Plan for PY 2012 and working together as you implement your State workforce strategies. If you have any questions related to the issues discussed above, please contact Marium Baker, the Federal Project Officer for Iowa, at (312) 596-5526 or Baker.Marium@dol.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jane Oates". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial "J".

Jane Oates
Assistant Secretary

Enclosure

cc: Byron Zuidema, Regional Administrator, ETA Chicago Regional Office
Marium Baker, Federal Project Officer for Iowa

Ferry E. Branstad, Governor

Kim Reynolds, Lt. Governor

Teresa Wahlert, Director

IOWA ,
WORKFORCE
DE: VLLOPMFNT

April 11, 2012

Division of WIA Adult Services and Workforce System
Employment and Training Administration
US Department of Labor
200 Constitution Ave, NW, Room S-4209
Washington, DC 20210

Attention: Heather Fleck

The State of Iowa is requesting a temporary extension of the currently approved WIA/W-P State Plan with the current waivers in place. In order to develop a more comprehensive strategic plan with our partners, it is anticipated that an additional four months will provide the time needed to perform the necessary needs assessments to develop a comprehensive workable plan for the State. This request is being made as per guidance provided in TEGL 21-11, Submission Timeline, Option 2, Page 12. We have also verbally notified DOL Region V staff, specifically Corey Bulluck, of our intent to make this extension request.

This extension will include the current negotiated rate for the performance measures and the two approved waivers for the WIA program. Iowa is requesting an extension to the existing waiver to extend the period of "Initial Eligibility of Training Providers", thereby postponing the "Subsequent Eligibility of Training Providers" determination period. This request is a waiver from the Workforce Investment Act Section 122 (c) (5) and 20CFR 663.530. The extension is needed to maintain the broadest range of eligible providers to enable individuals to make informed choices relating to their training goals.

The second previously approved waiver is to afford maximum flexibility in responding to the needs of workers and job seekers; Iowa requests the extension of the waiver to allow the transfer of 50% of funds between the Adult and Dislocated Worker funding streams. This waiver allows regional boards to respond to specific needs in their areas that may be created by significant numbers of worker dislocations, changes in the local economic environment, intent to increase services to specific populations, or similar issues. This request is a waiver from the Workforce Investment Act Section 133(b)(4L) and 20CFR667.140.

The additional time will allow the State to re-evaluate the needs assessments across the regions of the State as they realign services as a result of a change in the regional structure and the reduction in funding at both the State and Federal levels. The change in the regional structure will require a new look at the resources available for collaborating with Workforce partners.

Additionally, the Regional Workforce Investment Boards have already begun the process of developing new strategic plans. The process was not scheduled to be completed until late summer. To provide the information required for an integrated plan it will be more comprehensive to review and include strategies developed at the local as a result of this process.

The requirement for a total State plan rewrite with only a two week notice is not realistic if a State is expected to prepare a strategic plan that is reflective of changes in the regional structure and funding levels. To ensure that the governor's goals are incorporated for the State's economy and the Workforce system and include across program alignment, it will be necessary for the State to be given an appropriate amount of time to research and development a realistic plan. A five year plan for workforce issues in an economy that moves quickly and training that becomes obsolete within a six to nine month timeframe after completion requires a quantitative assessment of workforce needs in the State to develop the qualitative strategic plan for the workforce services of Iowa.

Iowa will submit a new Integrated State Workforce Strategic Plan no later than September 15, 2012. If you have any questions please contact Lori Adams at (515) 281-9322.

Sincerely,



Teresa Wahlert, Director
Iowa Workforce Development