

Mass Workforce Issuance

Workforce Issuance No. 09-29

Policy

Information

To: Chief Elected Officials
Workforce Investment Board Chairs
Workforce Investment Board Directors
Title I Administrators
Career Center Directors
Title I Fiscal Officers
DCS Regional Managers

cc: WIA State Partners

From: Michael Taylor, Director
Department of Workforce Development

Nancy Snyder, President/CEO
Commonwealth Corporation

Date: April 30, 2009

Subject: **Massachusetts Youth Waiver Requests**

Purpose: To notify Chief Elected Officials, Local Workforce Investment Boards, One-Stop Career Operators and other local workforce development partners and interested parties of the Commonwealth's intent to request approval from the U.S. Department of Labor (USDOL) for two waivers of statutory requirements of the Workforce Investment Act related to serving Youth.

Background: The waiver requests (summarized below) will be submitted by the Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development (EOLWD) and are intended to support youth services funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) as administered under the Workforce Investment Act (WIA).

Summary of Planned Waivers:

(1). A waiver relating to procurement requirements for youth summer employment providers (Attachment A). This request is for a waiver under WIA Section 123 regarding the requirement that Local Workforce Investment Boards and their Youth Councils select vendors to deliver youth services based on a competitive procurement. The waiver would permit local boards to enter into

companion contracts without the need for an additional procurement for up to 100% of the value of contract awards if made pursuant to a competitive procurement under the WIA formula funds.

(2). A Waiver relating to performance measures for youth who participate in work experience only (Attachment B). This request is for a waiver of WIA Section 136 (b)(2)(A), which defines the required performance measures for youth participants. It would provide for streamlined performance measures for older, out of school youth who receive ARRA-funded services beyond a summer employment program, in order to provide additional educational and training services based on the comprehensive needs of individuals.

This waiver request is being made pursuant to WIA Section 189 (i)(4)(B) and guidance from USDOL relative to the ARRA funds. This guidance can be found in Training and Employment Guidance Letter (TEGL) 14-08 Section 19A (http://wdr.doleta.gov/directives/corr_doc.cfm?DOCN=2728).

Required: Please review each waiver and provide comments no later than May 31, 2009 to:

John Niles
c/o ARRA Waiver Comments
Commonwealth Corporation
Schrafft Center
529 Main Street
Boston, MA 02129

Inquiries: Please direct all inquiries to Samuel Martin at Smartin@commcorp.org