

Mass Workforce Issuance

Workforce Issuance No. 09-66

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

Date: October 14, 2009

Subject: **Section 30 Law Changes**

Purpose: To inform Local Workforce Investment Boards, One-Stop Career Center Operators and other local workforce investment partners of changes made to Massachusetts Unemployment Law and regulations with respect to approval of training programs for claimants in conjunction with the Section 30 Training Opportunities program.

Background: On October 1, 2009, the Division of Unemployment Assistance issued a memorandum (Attachment A) describing changes to state unemployment law [M.G.L. Ch. 151(A)] and related regulations.

Two changes are of a *temporary* nature:

- When an extended benefit program such as the current EUC and EB programs are available to Massachusetts' claimants the period in which a claimant must apply for training approval is extended beyond the normal 15 week eligibility window to include any time within the claimant's 52-week "benefit year".
- To approve a training program under Section 30 when the Massachusetts unemployment rate is 7.0 % or less, the training program must have achieved an average minimum placement rate in full or part time training-related placement of 70%. If the unemployment rate is between 7.1 – 8.0% the minimum placement rate must be 60%. If the unemployment rate is 8.1% or higher, the minimum placement rate must be 50%.

Two changes are permanent:

- Training is approvable for a claimant when a disability does not allow the individual to perform the essential functions of his/her previous occupation.
- To approve training, the program must be completed within 2 years or, if combined with a basic skills component, within 3 years.

Required: Please assure that all appropriate staff are knowledgeable of the changes described in Attachment A.

Inquiries: All inquiries should be directed to the Section 30 Unit at 617-626-5375.