

MASSACHUSETTS

Workforce Investment Act

WIA Communication No. 05-68

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 Directors for Workforce Integration
DCS Associate Directors
DCS Field Managers

cc: WIA State Partners

From: Susan V. Lawler, Commissioner
Division of Career Services

Jonathan Raymond, President
Commonwealth Corporation

Date: September 15, 2005

Subject: Workforce Investment Act Waivers

Purpose: To notify Local Workforce Investment Boards, One-Stop Career Center Operators and other workforce investment partners of the approval of three of the four statutory waivers requested by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Background: In conjunction with the submission of the Massachusetts two-year State Plan, the Commonwealth had requested waivers on four statutory/regulatory requirements of the Workforce Investment Act. These included:

- a request to waive the requirement that youth follow-up services be procured through a separate competitive procurement process than that conducted for the procurement of youth framework services and to allow a procurement process that combines framework services and follow-up services,
- a request to allow eligibility to participate in the National School Lunch program as a proxy for eligibility for WIA youth services,

- a request to allow the Commonwealth to approve local workforce area requests to transfer up to 50 percent of Title I Adult and Dislocated Worker allocations from the current 30 percent, and
- a request to allow the use of Individual Training Accounts (ITAs) for youth participants.

On July 7th, Governor Romney received notification from the U.S. Department of Labor (USDOL) that three of the requested waivers have been approved for Fiscal Years 2006 and 2007.

Policy: Based on this USDOL approval the following policy changes are in effect:

- Through fiscal year 2007 the procurement of youth follow-up services may be combined with the procurement of youth framework services. If the combined framework/follow-up services are to be provided by the local area's designated fiscal agent, a competitive procurement process is not required. If the combined framework/follow-up services are to be provided by an organization other than the designated fiscal agent, a competitive procurement process consistent with all federal and/or state requirements must be followed.
- Through fiscal year 2007 Local Workforce Investment Boards may, with the Governor's approval, transfer up to 50 percent of their local allocations for Title I Adult and Dislocated funds from one program to the other.
- Through fiscal year 2007 Local Workforce Investment Boards have authority to use Individual Training Accounts (ITAs) for WIA Title I Youth participants (only for Older Youth and Out-of-School Younger Youth).

The USDOL *did not* approve the Commonwealth's request to allow eligibility to participate in the National School Lunch program as a proxy for eligibility for WIA youth services.

Action

Required: Local Workforce Investment Boards should ensure that local policies are revised as necessary for consistency with the content of this communication. Local workforce investment stakeholders and partners should also ensure that all appropriate staff are informed of the content of this issuance.

Effective: Immediately

Inquiries: Please email all questions to PolicyQA@detma.org. Also, indicate Issuance number and description.

Filing: Please file this in your notebook of previously issued WIA Communication Series Issuances as #05-68.