

# Mass Workforce Issuance

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**Workforce Issuance No. 09-52**

☒ **Policy**   ☐ **Information**

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**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:** July 27, 2009

**Subject:** **ARRA Related Youth Waivers**

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**Purpose:** To provide policy guidance to Local Workforce Investment Boards, One-Stop Career Center Operators and other local workforce investment partners with respect to implementing three (3) waivers related to youth experience under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

**Background:** The Commonwealth requested, and has received approval (Attachment A) from the U.S. Department of Labor Employment and Training Administration (ETA) to waive certain requirements related to:

1. competitive recruitment of summer youth employment opportunities described in WIA Section 123;
2. performance measures for out-of-school youth who participate in work experience outside of the summer months; and
3. providing a minimum of 12 months of follow-up and providing an objective assessment to develop an individual service strategy (ISS) for those youth participants served only with ARRA funding.

**Policy:** Local areas choosing to implement any of the approved waivers must develop and implement specific policies and procedures consistent with the parameters described, herein.

## **Waiver of Competitive Recruitment for Summer Youth Employment Opportunities**

The approved waiver allows local areas to provide non-competitive companion contracts to existing competitively procured contracts. If a limited competitive competition is used to select service providers, the limited competition must be among service providers with proven records of success in providing youth services.

The waiver is granted through September 30, 2009 and is only applicable to WIA Youth program funds made available through ARRA, and only applies to the summer employment program element.

In order to utilize this waiver, said method of procurement must be consistent with existing local procurement statutes and procedures.

Local areas must also provide public notice of chosen summer employment providers in conjunction with the transparency provisions of ARRA.

## **Waiver of Performance Measures for Youth**

The approved waiver allows local areas to waive the statutory WIA measures (Massachusetts is not a “common measures” state) and to use the work readiness indicator as the only measure of performance for youth, 18 through 24 years of age, who participate in work experience that occurs outside of the summer months.

The waiver applies to youth served through WIA Youth program funds made available through ARRA and is only applicable from October 1, 2009 through March 31, 2010.

The waiver is also applicable to out-of-school youth who receive supportive services in addition to participating in work experience and are not participating in any other WIA youth elements.

## **Waiver of 12 Month Follow-Up and Objective Assessment / Individual Service Strategy Requirements for Youth Who Only Participate in Work Experience**

The approval waives the provisions requiring the design framework of local youth programs to include 10 elements for improving educational and skill competencies for participants of non-summer work experience. Under the waiver, local areas are not required to provide the minimum 12-month follow-up services and are, instead allowed to provide follow-up services *as deemed appropriate* for such youth participants.

In addition, the approval waives the requirement that the local area conduct an objective assessment and develop an individual service strategy (ISS) for each participating youth and, instead allows the local area to provide an assessment or ISS *as deemed appropriate* for such youth participants.

(Subject of Policy Issuance)

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The waiver applies only to youth participants ages 18 - 24 served through WIA Youth program funds made available through ARRA and is only applicable from October 1, 2009 through March 31, 2010.

**Action**

**Required:** Please assure that all appropriate staff are apprised of the content of this issuance and that all local policies and procedures are reviewed to assure that local implementation of the approved waivers is consistent with the guidance provided.

**Effective:** Immediately

**Inquiries:** Please email all questions to [PolicyQA@detma.org](mailto:PolicyQA@detma.org). Also, indicate Issuance number and description.