

MASSACHUSETTS WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM

Mass Workforce Issuance

Workforce Issuance No. 10-66

☒ **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: July 27, 2010

Subject: **State Plan and Waivers Extension for FY 2011**

Purpose: To notify Local Workforce Investment Boards, One-Stop Career Center Operators and other local workforce investment partners of the approval of the Commonwealth's State Plan and waivers requested for FY 2011.

Background: On June 30, 2010, the U.S. Department of labor notified Governor Patrick of its approval of both the Commonwealth's State Plan and all waivers requested for FY 2011 (see Attachment A). In accordance with Workforce Investment Act section 189(i) states and local areas are permitted to request waivers of certain statutory and regulatory requirements in order to enhance the overall effectiveness of the workforce investment system in meeting statewide and local needs.

The waivers approved for FY 2011 are:

1. Waiver of WIA Section 133(b)(4) to increase the allowable transfer amount between Adult and Dislocated Worker funding streams allocated to the local area. The approval represents an extension of a previously granted waiver allowing up to 50% of the local Adult or Dislocated Worker allocation to be transferred between the categories as a means of enhancing local areas' ability to effectively respond to local needs and circumstances. The waiver does not

apply to funds made available through ARRA. The waiver is approved through 6/30/11 [*see also MassWorkforce Issuance No. 08-26 (7/15/08)*].

2. Waiver of Language at WIA Section 101(8) (C) Requiring a 50 Percent Employer Contribution for Customized Training. The approval represents an extension of a previously granted waiver allowing use of a sliding scale for employer contributions based on the size of the business: no less than a 10 percent match for employers with 50 or fewer employees; no less than a 25 percent match for employers with 51-250 employees. For businesses that employ more than 250 individuals the statutory requirement of not less than a 50 percent match remains in effect. The waiver is approved through 6/30/11 (*a MassWorkforce policy issuance specific to this waiver is currently in development*).
3. Waiver to permit local areas to use a portion of local funds for incumbent worker training. The approval represents an extension of a previously granted waiver allowing local areas to utilize up to 10% of their local formula funds for training incumbent workers. Requirements of the approved waiver include:
 - a. Under this waiver, use of Adult funds must be restricted to serving low-income Adults.
 - b. Incumbent worker training must be a part of a layoff aversion strategy.
 - c. All training delivered under this waiver is restricted to skill attainment activities.
 - d. Performance outcomes for individuals served under this waiver must be reported in WIASRD.

The waiver is approved through 6/30/11 [*see also MassWorkforce Issuance No. 08-44 (10/21/08)*].

4. Waiver of WIA Section 134(a)(1)(A) to permit a portion of the funds reserved for Rapid Response activities to be used for incumbent worker training. The approval represents an extension of a previously granted waiver to enhance the Commonwealth's efforts to implement strategies focused on layoff aversion. Requirements of the approved waiver include:
 - a. All incumbent worker training delivered under the waiver must be part of a layoff aversion strategy
 - b. All training delivered under this waiver is restricted to "skill attainment activities"
 - c. Performance outcomes for individuals served under this waiver must be reported in WIASRD.
 - d. The waiver does not apply to funds made available through ARRA.

The waiver is approved through 6/30/11.

5. Waiver of WIA Section 123 that requires providers of Youth program elements be selected on a competitive basis. The approval represents an extension of a previously granted waiver allowing follow-up services to be combined with youth program design framework services, without the need for undertaking a competitive procurement process. The waiver is approved through 6/30/11 [*see also MassWorkforce Issuance No. 07-26 (5/5/07)*].
6. Waiver to Permit the Use of Individual Training Accounts (ITAs) for Older and Out-of-School Youth. The approval allows local areas to expand training opportunities for youth while retaining limited adult funds to be used on adult training services. This waiver was granted without the need for a formal request as USDOL has determined that it has become a fundamental aspect of the operation of the workforce system. The waiver is approved through 6/30/11.

Action

Required: Each local area intending to implement any of the waivers approved for FY 2011 must adhere to the requirements described herein.

Effective: Immediately.

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

Attachments: U.S. Department of Labor Approval Letter