

MASSACHUSETTS WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM

Mass Workforce Issuance

Workforce Issuance No. 13-43

☒ **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 Operations Managers

cc: WIA State Partners

From: Alice Sweeney, Director
Department of Career Services

Date: July 24, 2013

Subject: **WIA Waivers Approved Through 2017**

Purpose: To provide a reminder to Local Workforce Investment Boards, One-Stop Career Center Operators and other local workforce investment partners of the approved Massachusetts waivers of certain Workforce Investment Act (WIA) requirements that are effective through June 30, 2017.

Background: Section 189(i)(4) of WIA authorizes the Secretary to waive certain statutory and regulatory provisions of the WIA and of the Wagner-Peyser Act (W-P). This general statutory and regulatory waiver authority provides increased flexibility to states and local areas, and it provides an opportunity for states and local areas to organize services in ways that best meet the needs of the state, regional and local economies and overcome legal or regulatory barriers that may impeded innovation. Waivers provide flexibility in exchange for improved programmatic outcomes and must be consistent with WIA's key reform principles.

Please note that WIA prohibits waivers for certain WIA and Wagner-Peyser Act provisions including wage and labor standards, allocation of funds to local areas, eligibility of participants and providers, the establishment and functions of local areas and local workforce investment boards, and procedures for review and approval of plans, as described at WIA §189(i)(4)(A).

The U.S. Department of Labor (USDOL) approval of the Massachusetts State Integrated Workforce Plan, Program Years 2012–2016 (July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2017), includes the favorable disposition of the Commonwealth's waiver requests through June 30, 2017.

Policy: As of July 1, 2012, the following waivers have been approved to continue through June 30, 2017.

1. Use of Youth Individual Training Accounts
2. Use of Formula Funds for Incumbent Worker Training
3. Use of Rapid Response Funds for Incumbent Worker Training
4. Expanded Transfer Authority - Adult and Dislocated Worker Funds
5. Waiver of Requirement for Competitive Procurement of Youth Follow-Up Services
6. Sliding Scale Employer Match for Customized Training
7. Sliding Scale Employer Match for On-the Job Training
8. Common Measures Implementation
9. Waiver of Requirement to Provide Incentive Grants to Local Areas

Action Required: Local areas intending to implement any of the approved Massachusetts waivers must adhere to the requirements described herein. Waiver implementation must be documented in the Local Annual WIA Plan.

Effective: Immediately.

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

Attachments:

- A. Massachusetts Approved Waivers
- B. U.S. Department of Labor Approval Letter