

EXHIBIT 14

SELECTION OF ONE-STOP PROVIDERS

A major component of the local plan as required by WIA is the local One-Stop service delivery system. This portion of the local planning process necessarily requires involvement of the "required" One-Stop partners at the local level. One of the specific decision points around One-Stop planning includes the role of the One-Stop operator and which method of selection (as identified in WIA) will be used to select One-Stop operator(s).

DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION

A major thrust of the Workforce Investment Act is the federal requirement for the design and implementation of local One-Stop service delivery systems that meet the needs of both employers and job seekers in the broadest sense. One-Stop service delivery systems are designed to provide easier access to available workforce development services in a seamless delivery system.

Rhode Island now has over five years of experience in the development and implementation of One-Stop systems as a result of the federal One-Stop grant we received. Today, Rhode Island currently has 4 One-Stop Centers that are fully operational and plans to open 2 additional centers by June 30, 2000. One-Stop systems as required by the Workforce Investment Act have slightly different requirements than the requirements under the federal implementation grant.

As local partners assess their One-Stop structure under WIA, it will be important for them to build on the successes achieved in Rhode Island's One-Stop system to date. Local areas are strongly encouraged to begin their One-Stop design process by retaining the One-Stop operator whose experience and achievements will ensure successful under WIA.

One-Stop Operators

WIA provides a selection process for One-Stop operators. However, neither the statute nor the regulations define the specific role of a One-Stop operator. Therefore, it depends on the design of the local One-Stop system as to what role a One-Stop operator plays in the system. Rhode Island has designed a One-Stop system that identifies the Department of Labor &

Training as the administrator/manager for the operations of multiple integrated physical sites where all the partners are physically present. The Act provides four ways for local areas to select One-Stop operators:

- the local board;
- through a competitive process;
- by "grandfathering in" One-Stop operators that have been performing that service under the federal grant; or
- by identifying a consortia of three or more "required" One-Stop partners.

There is significant flexibility in both the role performed by the One-Stop operator and the selection process. Local areas are encouraged to first think through the role they need a One-Stop operator to play and then determine the most logical selection process.