



**Department of Labor and Training**

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## **WORKFORCE INVESTMENT NOTICE: 11-22**

**TO:** WORKFORCE INVESTMENT AREAS

**FROM:** David Tremblay, Administrator-State Workforce Investment Office

**SUBJECT:** Program Year 2012 Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Local Plans

**DATE:** June 29, 2012

- 1. PURPOSE.** To notify Local Areas of the Program Year 2012 planning process
- 2. REFERENCES.**
  - Workforce Investment Act of 1998, as amended (29 U.S.C. 2081, et seq.);
  - Workforce Investment Act of 1998 regulations, 20 CFR parts 660-671;
  - State Integrated Workforce Plan Requirements for Workforce Investment Act Title I / Wagner-Peyser Act and Department of Labor Workforce Programs (OMB No. 1205-0398);
  - Planning Guidance for State Unified Plans and Unified Plan Modifications Submitted under Section 501 of the Workforce Investment Act (OMB No. 1205-0398)
  - Training and Employment Guidance Letter (TEGL) 21-11 issued by the United States Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration (ETA) on March 27, 2012
- 3. BACKGROUND.** WIA, as amended, requires that the Governor of each state and the chief elected official of each local area submit a workforce plan that outlines a strategy for its workforce investment system. States (and in turn, local areas) must have approved plans in place to receive formula allotments under WIA. The current State Plan and waivers, as well as the local plans, will expire on June 30, 2012.

ETA has updated the published requirements governing state planning. As in the past, there are two guidance documents that states may use for strategic planning. The main

planning guidance for the WIA Title I/W-P State Plan (sometimes referred to as “stand-alone” plans) has been significantly revised and re-named the *State Integrated Workforce Plan Requirements for Workforce Investment Act Title I/Wagner Peyser Act and Department of Labor Workforce Programs* (Integrated Workforce Plan). The changes were meant to streamline requirements and foster more meaningful strategic alignment. The second set of planning requirements, *Planning Guidance for State Unified Plans and Unified Plan Modifications Submitted under Section 501 of the Workforce Investment Act* is for states wishing to submit a Unified Plan.

TEGL 21-11 describes in more detail the elements to be included in the State Strategic Plan and provides two options to States regarding the timing of submission:

- *Option 1: Submit a five-year Plan by April 16, 2012.*
- *Option 2: Submit a five-year Plan between April 17 and September 15, 2012.*

Rhode Island chose option 2 and, in accordance with TEGL 21-11, submitted a request to ETA for temporary extensions of the currently approved State Plan, waivers and current negotiated performance measures. A decision will be made in the near future to determine if it is in the State’s best interest to submit an Integrated Workforce Plan or a Unified Plan. The planning process will be inclusive of all partners in the state’s workforce development system, including the Local Workforce Boards.

- 4. INSTRUCTIONS FOR SUBMITTING LOCAL PLANS FOR PY2012-PY2016.** As stated above, all currently approved Local Workforce Plans will expire on June 30, 2012. It is the Governor’s expectation that Local Boards will develop and approve comprehensive strategic workforce plans which appropriately address the workforce needs of the local area and that are consistent with the revised State Plan. In order to allow sufficient time for this process, the WIA Liaison will temporarily extend all Local Workforce Plans through January 31, 2013. No action is required by the Local Area at this time. This temporary extension will also apply to the certifications of the Local Boards and Youth Councils. A letter from the WIA Liaison to the Local Board Chairs regarding the extension will be forthcoming and the extension will satisfy the requirement that an approved plan be in place in order to receive formula allotments.

As part of the State’s planning process, new performance goals will be negotiated prior to December 31, 2012. The negotiated goals will apply to the July 1, 2012 – June 30, 2013 performance period.

As the State’s planning process progresses, the State Workforce Investment Office will issue guidance outlining the required content of the five year Local Plans and the submission instructions.

- 5. INQUIRIES.** Questions concerning this subject may be directed to the State Workforce Investment Office Administrator at 462-8812.