

RHODE ISLAND'S ABBREVIATED WAIVER REQUESTS FOR PY09

For the one-year extension of the WIA State Plan through June 30, 2010, Rhode Island is also requesting an extension of the waivers previously granted. In accordance with TEGL 7-08, those waivers are summarized below along with a brief rationale for the extension including performance outcomes achieved by the implementation of the waiver.

Waiver #1: To permit the use of Individual Training Accounts (ITAs) for older and out of school youth program participants.

Rationale: This waiver allows for the appropriate use of ITAs for youth participants, based on a valid needs assessment of interest, skills and aptitudes.

Performance Outcomes: This waiver has resulted in more flexibility for local boards in delivering services based on the individual needs of participants as intended under WIA. It has also increased the opportunity for youth to receive credentials.

Waiver #2: To extend the period of initial eligibility for training providers on the State's Eligible Training Provider List.

Rationale: This waiver allows for training providers to participate in the program without having to release information that may impinge on the privacy of their students.

Performance Outcomes: This waiver has resulted in increased customer choice. The number of programs currently on the list is more than double the number in PY04.

Waiver #3: To waive the membership requirements of the State Workforce Investment Board.

Rationale: This waiver allows for the state to continue operating with a streamlined State Workforce Investment Board. The SWIB is composed of the thirteen (13) members of the Human Resource Investment Council plus four (4) additional members appointed by the Governor. It does meet the WIA requirement for a business majority and a business chairperson.

Performance Outcomes: This waiver has resulted in an active, influential and involved board due to its smaller size.

Waiver #4: To waive the required 50 percent employer match for customized training to permit a match based on a sliding scale.

Rationale: This waiver allows for a sliding scale reimbursement to encourage employers to participate in this WIA activity since the 50% match had historically been a deterrent.

Performance Outcomes: This program has been redesigned and will be re-deployed shortly. The anticipated performance outcome is greater employer participation and satisfaction.

Waiver #5: To waive the requirement to competitively select providers of the ten youth program elements.

Rationale: This waiver ensures the availability of all youth program elements despite a limited pool of willing providers. It also reduces the expense and the administrative burden.

Performance Outcomes: This waiver has generated a much larger pool of leveraged funds which, in turn, has driven down the cost of providing the WIA services allowing more youth to be served.