State Of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations

Lincoln D. Chafee
Governor

April 15, 2011

Division of Workforce System Support
Employment and Training Administration
U.S. Department of Labor
200 Constitution Avenue, NW, Room S-4231
Washington, DC 20210
ATTN: Kimberly Vitelli

Dear Ms. Vitelli:

Rhode Island's Strategic State Plan for Title I of the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) and the Wagner-Peyser Act will expire on June 30, 2011. In accordance with Training and Employment Guidance Letter (TEGL) No. 17-10, Rhode Island respectfully requests that the U.S. Department of Labor extend the life of the existing Rhode Island WIA/Wagner-Peyser Act State Plan into Program Year 2011 (July 1, 2011 – June 30, 2012), including all currently approved waivers (attached) and negotiated performance goals.

In its official guidance, USDOL provides a planning accommodation for those states with newly elected Governors. It is imperative that we get the workforce development and training objectives for our state right if Rhode Islanders are to emerge from the current economic recession better equipped to perform in and compete for the types of jobs that will be created. As Governor this is a priority of mine, and I am committed to working with state leaders across all organizations to ensure our success. The extension of the planning effort will afford my administration the opportunity to collaborate with stakeholders and better identify a set of workforce priorities that strategically align partners and resources. As part of this work we are also analyzing the current and anticipated economic climate as well as prior performance outcomes with the goal of submitting a request to negotiate proposed levels of performance for PY 2011 prior to the beginning of the new program year.

Pursuant to WIA regulations at 20 CFR 661.230(d), we made the current State Plan, current waivers, and the request to extend available for public review and comment. This was done for

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the period beginning on March 9, 2011 and concluded on April 7, 2011. A public hearing was held at the Department of Labor and Training on March 24, 2011. No objections were made to this proposal.

I very much look forward to building a strong relationship between my Administration and USDOL. Together we can leverage our capacities to help Rhode Islanders succeed and prosper. If you need additional information or have any questions specifically related to this request, please contact Charles J. Fogarty, Director of the RI Department of Labor & Training and WIA Liaison at 401-462-8875 or Director-dlt@dlt.ri.gov

Sincerely,

Lincoln D. Chafee
Governor

enclosures

cc: Holly O'Brien
Acting Regional Administrator

Currently Approved Waivers – Requesting Extension of All

1. Waiver of the required 50 percent employer contribution for customized training at WIA section 101 (8) (C).

2. Waiver of the prohibition at 20 CFR 664.510 on the use of Individual Training Accounts for older and out-of-school youth.

3. Waiver of WIA Section 123 that required that providers of Youth program elements be selected on a competitive basis.

4. Waiver of the provision at 20 CFR 663.530 that prescribes a time limit on the period of initial eligibility for training providers.

5. Waiver of the State Workforce Board membership requirements at WIA Section 111 (b).

6. 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.

7. Waiver of WIA Section 101(31)(B) to increase the employer reimbursement for on-the-job training.

8. Waiver of 20 CFR 666 and 667.300(a) to reduce the collection of participant data for incumbent workers.

9. Waiver of the WIA regulations at 20 CFR 666.100 to exempt the state from including credential attainment outcomes for participants enrolled in on-the-job training in the credential performance measure calculations.