

**WORKFORCE INVESTMENT ACT WAIVER REQUEST:
Discontinue the Collection of Seven of the Data Elements in Section 1 of the
WIASRD for Incumbent Workers Trained With WIA Funds**

The Rhode Island Department of Labor and Training, the state's Workforce Investment Act (WIA) administrative entity, requests a waiver to allow State to discontinue the collection of seven of the data elements in Section 1 of the WIASRD for incumbent workers trained with State-level 15% or Rapid Response funds. The State seeks to reduce the data collection burden for businesses served under WIA-funded incumbent worker training programs. Under the waiver, the State would not collect the following WIASRD data elements: single parent (117), unemployment compensation eligible status at participation (118), low income (119), TANF (120), other public assistance (121), homeless individual and/or runaway (125), and offender (126).

This waiver will apply to the balance of Program Year 2010 and subsequent years. It will apply, in the case of 15% State-level funds, to both formula and Recovery Act funds. In the case of rapid response funds, it will apply only to formula funds.

This waiver request is written in the format identified in WIA Section 189(i)(4)(B) and in WIA Regulations 20 CFR 661.420 (c) of the Regulations. In addition, this waiver is identified in Training and Employment Guidance Letter (TEGL) # 26-09 as one that the Employment and Training Administration approved as a Program Year 2009 policy decision.

A. Statutory Regulations to be Waived:

20 CFR 667.300(a).

B. Goals to be Achieved by the Waiver and Relationship to Strategic Plan:

Because of the waiver, the State expects to reduce the data collection burden for businesses being served under WIA-funded incumbent worker training programs. The Strategic Workforce Plan for Rhode Island 2009-2014 puts a high emphasis on the value of employer involvement in training. This waiver will allow businesses to remain focused on training for the incumbent workers and other requirements rather than data collection.

C. State or Local Statutory or Regulatory Barriers

There is no existing state or local barrier to implementing the requested waiver.

D. Description of Waiver Goals and Programmatic Outcomes

The goal of this waiver is to minimize the data collection requirements of the employers for incumbent worker training so that they are not unnecessarily burdened with federal data collection requirements that do not provide relevant program information. Expected program outcomes include allowing the state flexibility to offer incumbent worker services and enhancing services to businesses along with increasing flexibility to engage and work with businesses in improving skills of the employer's workforce.

E. Description of the Individuals Impacted by the Waiver

The waiver will directly impact the staff of the businesses and the Department's reporting and recordkeeping staff. It may also make the process of participating in WIA funded incumbent worker training more attractive to employers, thus increasing business involvement and positive outcomes for companies and workers alike.

F. Description of the Monitoring Process

DLT, as the state administrative entity of WIA, is responsible for the monitoring of all WIA funded activities and will incorporate the implementation of this waiver into existing procedures.

H. Public Comment on the Waiver Request

Rhode Island intends to place this waiver request on its web site, accept comments from the public either verbally at a public hearing or in writing, and discuss it at open meetings of the state workforce board to ensure transparency and to allow for meaningful public comment and input from all interested parties, including, but not limited to, business and organized labor.

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