



State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations

State House
Providence, Rhode Island 02903-1196
401-222-2080

Donald L. Carcieri
Governor

April 13, 2009

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: Janet Sten

Dear Ms. Sten:

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, 2009. In accordance with Training and Employment Guidance Letter (TEGL) No. 14-08, Rhode Island is requesting that the U.S. Department of Labor extend the life of the existing Rhode Island WIA/Wagner-Peyser Act State Plan into PY 2009.

As indicated in TEGL No. 14-08, states have the option of continuing to use the goals negotiated for PY 2008 or negotiate new goals for PY 2009. Rhode Island has considered the current and anticipated economic climate as well as prior performance outcomes and has enclosed its proposed levels of performance for PY 2009. Additionally, in accordance with TEGL No. 7-08 issued December 11, 2008 and reiterated in TEGL No. 14-08, Rhode Island is requesting our current waivers be extended. An abbreviated summary of each waiver is enclosed.

Also enclosed is a new customized training waiver request that adheres to the format identified in WIA Section 189(i)(4)(B) and WIA Final Regulations at 20 CFR Section 661.420(c). This new waiver uses a cost benefit ratio rating scale to determine the percentage of employer match for customized training rather than have the match be based solely on the size of the company. Through this approach, the employer match would range from a minimum of 10% to a maximum of 50% and would be determined by assigning numeric values to a set of characteristics (e.g., hiring commitments based on company size, hourly wage at employment, and the length of training). This would take into consideration not only company size, but other factors that demonstrate a firm's commitment to developing their workforce. It is anticipated this will achieve increased participation in customized training programs by Rhode Island's smaller companies in particular.

Ms. Janet Sten
April 13, 2009
Page Two

The WIA regulations at 20 CFR 661.230(d) provide that modifications to the State Plan are subject to the same public review and comment requirements that apply to the development of the original plan. Therefore, the State Plan and associated documents were made available for public comment and review beginning on February 4, 2009 and concluded one day after the public hearing held on March 5, 2009.

If you need additional information or have any questions, please contact Sandra Powell, Director of the RI Department of Labor & Training and WIA Liaison at 401-462-8875 or spowell@dlt.ri.gov.

Sincerely,



Donald L. Carcieri
Governor

Enclosures

Cc: Holly O'Brien
Acting Regional Administrator
