

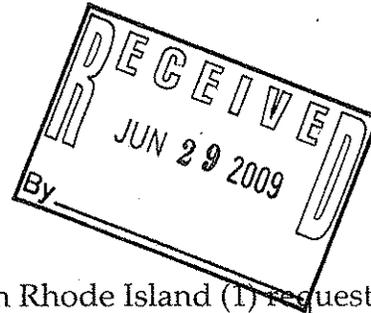
U.S. Department of Labor

JUN - 2 2009

Employment and Training Administration
200 Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20210



The Honorable Don Carcieri
Governor of Rhode Island
222 State House
Providence, Rhode Island 02903



Dear Governor Carcieri:

This is to respond to the letter of April 13, 2009, in which Rhode Island (1) requests an extension of its current Strategic State Plan for title I of the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) and the Wagner-Peyser Act, (2) requests an extension of the State's waivers currently in effect and (3) addresses performance goals for Program Year (PY) 2009. Training and Employment Guidance Letter (TEGL) No. 14-08, issued on March 18, 2009, provides guidance on extending the life of State Plans and existing waivers into PY 2009. We appreciate the State's prompt response to this guidance. This letter addresses the State Plan extension request and performance goals for PY 2009. The state's waiver requests will be addressed in a separate letter.

Extension of Strategic State Plan

Rhode Island's existing State Plan expires on June 30, 2009, and the State is requesting an extension of the Plan into PY 2009. This letter constitutes a written determination under WIA Section 112 (29 USC 2822) that the Employment and Training Administration (ETA) is extending the approval of Rhode Island's Strategic Plan for title I of the Workforce Investment Act and the Wagner-Peyser Act into PY 2009. The approved State Plan as extended will remain in effect until such time as the Department provides notice of our determination upon review of the State Plan modification, which is required to be submitted under TEGL No. 14-08. This modification is due June 30, 2009, and is required to address how the state will use funding under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) to meet the growing demand for workforce development services. Upon approval of this modification of the PY 2009 Plan, the modified State Plan will take effect and the extension of the current extended Plan will be terminated.

The Grant Officer will issue a Notice of Obligation for the "July portion" of the WIA formula allocations for Adult and Dislocated Worker programs, effective July 1, 2009, under the PY 2009 Annual Funding Agreement. The Wagner-Peyser Act programs annual funding agreement for Program Year 2009/Fiscal Year 2010 will be sent to the designated state grantee agency for signature and return to the Grant Officer for execution, effective July 1, 2009. The Wagner-Peyser Act annual funding agreement

will provide for the initial base allocation of PY 2009 funds. The Grant Officer has issued separate Notices of Obligation for ARRA funding allocations to supplement PY 2008 WIA title I Youth, Adult and Dislocated Worker programs and Wagner-Peyser Act programs per TEGL No. 13-08.

Performance Goals

The Regional Administrator is working with Rhode Island to negotiate WIA and Wagner-Peyser Act performance goals for PY 2009. We are confident that negotiations will proceed at a timely pace. The Regional Administrator's letter confirming the agreed-upon performance goals for PY 2009 will constitute a modification to the State Plan. Once finalized, ETA will incorporate the State's agreed-upon performance goals PY 2009 into the Regional and National Office copies of the State Plan. Rhode Island should ensure that the agreed-upon goals are included in the State's official copy of the Plan.

Designation of State Officials

When the State submits the modification required on June 30, 2009, please ensure that Attachment A to the Planning Guidance, the Program Administration Designees and Plan Signatures form, is up to date, and provides the names of the agencies and officials, with appropriate contact information, that you have designated to represent the State for WIA title I and Wagner-Peyser Act grant programs. Please ignore this request if the State has submitted an up to date Designees and Plan Signatures form subsequent to the issuance of this letter.

Again, we appreciate your prompt response to TEGL No. 14-08 and your efforts to move quickly to extend your Plan and waivers for PY 2009. If you have any questions related to the issues discussed above, please contact Bert Camarata, the Federal Project Officer for Rhode Island, at (617) 788-0377 or camarata.bert@dol.gov.

Sincerely,



Holly O'Brien
Acting Regional Administrator
Employment and Training
Administration



Gay M. Gilbert
Administrator
Office of Workforce Investment
Employment and Training Administration

Enclosure



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
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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