

## TRANSMITTAL #4

### MEMORANDUM

May 8, 2012

**TO:** Workforce Development Council Executive Committee

**FROM:** Roger B. Madsen, Director

**SUBJECT:** Workforce Investment Act State Plan – Request to Extend Existing Plan.

**ACTION REQUESTED:** Approve Idaho Department of Labor's request for a temporary extension of its WIA/W-P State Five-Year Plan through September 15, 2012 as allowable by US DOL/ETA Planning Guidance.

#### **BACKGROUND:**

The Workforce Investment Act establishes a five-year planning cycle for Title 1 of the Workforce Investment Act and for the Wagner-Peyser Act that authorizes the federal Employment Service. All WIA/Wagner-Peyser State Plans and approved waivers currently in place will expire on June 30, 2012. The U.S. Department of Labor Employment and Training Administration issued final planning guidance to the states on March 27, 2012, requiring states to submit a new five-year WIA/Wagner-Peyser Plan by April 15, 2012 with an option to extend their existing plans to September 15, 2012.

#### **Waivers**

Federal planning guidelines stress that states should take advantage of flexibility provisions under current legislative authority to tailor service delivery and program design to fit the unique characteristics of their work forces. This is done by submitting a request for a waiver of compliance to administrative rules or program requirements. As part of the planning process, the Workforce Development Council is required to review the state's currently approved waivers and request extensions if desired. The council may also request additional waivers with a plan modification.

#### **Current Waivers**

With the modifications to previous State Plans, Idaho sought and obtained approval of following waivers:

- to minimize the administrative burden for eligible training providers with a proposed modification
- to use common measures reporting
- to allow the Workforce Development Council to serve as a local board for the statewide planning region

- to allow the state to choose the most appropriate mix of youth services needed within the state's economy
- to exempt the procurement requirement for the follow-up, support services and work experience components, to include internship and summer work experience, and having those services categorized as part of the design framework.
- to exempt the prohibition on using WIA Youth dollars to fund Individual Training Accounts (ITAs) for older youth, and
- To enhance on-the-job training (OJT) opportunities by increasing reimbursement rates up to 90% for participating employers.

The state proposes to extend the waivers through the end of the new planning cycle, which will end on June 30, 2013.

**Staff Recommendation:**

IDOL staff recommends submission of a request to temporarily extend Idaho's existing WIA/Wagner-Peyser State Plan through September 15, 2012 when the new State Plan that has been reviewed and approved by the Council will be submitted. Request for extensions will be reviewed for approval by US DOL/ETA.

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