

TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT NOTICE	NO. 4-12
	DATE August 3, 2012

TO: AFFILIATE ONE-STOPS
 COMPREHENSIVE ONE-STOPS
 WIA 166 AND 477 GRANTEES
 DOL ETA REGIONAL ADMINISTRATORS
 STATE GOVERNORS
 STATE WIA LIAISONS
 STATE WORKFORCE ADMINISTRATORS
 WIB STATE EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS
 WIB LOCAL EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

FROM: JANE OATES /s/
 Assistant Secretary

SUBJECT: Release and Availability of Employment and Training Administration (ETA)
 Occasional Paper – *Evaluation of Waivers Granted Under WIA: Findings
 from Interviews with 20 States*

1. Purpose. To announce the release and availability of ETA Occasional Paper: *Evaluation of Waivers Granted Under WIA: Findings from Interviews with 20 States*

2. Background. The Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (WIA), administered by the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL), is the largest source of federally-funded employment and training services. The program services, provided by state and local WIA agencies, involve many statutory and regulatory requirements applied uniformly across the country. Due to state and local area differences, WIA allows states to apply for waivers of WIA regulations, providing greater flexibility in serving the specific needs of local populations. These waivers may affect how resources are allocated or the types of employment and training services available to various groups.

Between Program Years (PY) 2008 and 2010, DOL approved more than 750 state-requested waivers of statutory and regulatory requirements. To learn more about possible effects of waiver implementation, ETA has contracted with Mathematica Policy Research to conduct an evaluation of selected waivers approved in PY 2008 through 2010. This study includes two interim reports and one final report. The final report will be available late 2012.

3. Description. This interim report is structured as follows: Section 1 is an overview of the waiver program with emphasis on eight specific waivers that are the focus of this study: 1) Adult Dislocated Worker Transfer, 2) Local Funds for Incumbent-Worker Training as a Statewide Activity, 3) Rapid Response Funds for Incumbent-Worker Training as a Statewide Activity, 4) Employer Contribution for Customized Training, 5) Employer Reimbursement for On-the-Job Training, 6) Competitive Procurement for Youth Elements, 7) Youth Individual Training

Accounts, and 8) Work-flex. Section 2 provides a discussion of the study methodology; and Section 3 provides findings from this data collection, lessons learned from waiver implementation, and recommendations for improvement. Among the lessons learned are success stories that highlight the positive relations with employers and state and local areas as well as challenges faced when applying for and implementing the approved waiver. The recommendations include those that address the issues in the overall waiver application process as well as issues pertaining to specific waivers. This report should be useful to a wide range of readers including researchers, policy makers, and workforce system professionals. It contains succinct presentations of data on topics that are important to ETA and the workforce system.

Readers of the electronic version of this notice can easily access the publication on the ETA Research Database at <http://wdr.doleta.gov/research/keyword.cfm> for additional information, including the full text.

4. Inquiries. To view an abstract of this publication as well as to download the full report as a PDF, visit the ETA Research Publication Database Web site at: <http://wdr.doleta.gov/research/keyword.cfm>.