



DEC 21 2017

Cynthia C. Dungey
Director
Ohio Department of Job and Family Services
30 E. Broad Street, 32nd Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear Ms. Dungey:

In a letter dated August 18, 2017, the Employment and Training Administration (ETA) conditionally approved two waiver requests from Ohio in support of the State's Comprehensive Case Management and Employment Program (CCMEP). In the letter ETA indicated that full approval of these requests was contingent upon the State providing additional information regarding implementation. ETA received the State's response on September 15, 2017. ETA has reviewed the additional material and fully approves the State's requested waivers, listed below. This action is taken under the Secretary's authority to waive certain requirements of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Title I, Subtitles A, B, and E, and sections 8-10 of the Wagner-Peyser Act.

Based on the information provided by Ohio, ETA approves the following waivers through Program Year (PY) 2019, or June 30, 2020, consistent with the approval period of Ohio's four-year WIOA State Plan:

- Waiver of WIOA Section 129(a)(4) and 20 CFR 681.410 which require that local workforce development areas expend at least 75 percent of local area youth funds to provide services to out-of-school youth. This waiver allows the State to satisfy the 75 percent expenditure threshold for out-of-school youth using a combination of WIOA and Temporary Assistance to Needy Families funds.
- Waiver of WIOA Section 129(a)(4) and 20 CFR 681.410 to allow calculation of the 75 percent out-of-school youth expenditure threshold at the State level rather than local level; and
- Waiver of 20 CFR 681.550 to allow local boards to use individual training accounts for in-school youth.

The State must monitor performance outcomes to ensure that additional participants will be served under CCMEP, as Ohio describes in its waiver request. The State must also evaluate the impact of these waivers against achievements in measureable skill gains, employment, and attainment of a credential, and use PY 2016 data of youth served as the baseline in which to evaluate the effectiveness of the requested waivers relative to the volume of numbers served. The State must record all waiver-related performance outcomes and improvements in the State's Annual WIOA Report.

The ETA Chicago Regional Office is available for further discussion and to provide technical assistance to the State to support it in achieving its goals under CCMEP and improving services to youth, as well as to assist in the State's development of the follow-up information required for the waivers approved herein. Should you have questions, feel free to contact the State's Federal Project Officer, Carl Stahlheber, at (312) 596-5415 or stahlheber.carl@dol.gov.

Sincerely,



Rosemary Lahasky
Deputy Assistant Secretary

Enclosure

cc:

The Honorable John R. Kasich, Governor of Ohio
John B. Weber, Deputy Director, Ohio Department of Job & Family Services
Office of Workforce Development
Christine Quinn, Regional Administrator, ETA Chicago Regional Office
Carl Stahlheber, Federal Project Officer, ETA Chicago Regional Office



AUG 18 2017

Cynthia C. Dungey
Director
Ohio Department of Job and Family Services
30 E. Broad Street, 32nd Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear Ms. Dungey:

Thank you for your requests for waivers of statutory and regulatory requirements under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), submitted on May 22, 2017 (copy enclosed). The waivers you requested are to support the State of Ohio's Comprehensive Case Management and Employment Program (CCMEP). This letter constitutes the Employment and Training Administration's (ETA) formal response to your requests. This action is taken under the Secretary's authority to waive certain requirements of WIOA Title I, Subtitles A, B, and E, and sections 8-10 of the Wagner-Peyser Act.

Requested Waiver: Waiver of WIOA section 129(c)(4) which requires that not less than 20 percent of the funds allocated to the local workforce development areas be used to provide in-school-youth and out-of-school youth with paid or unpaid work experience.

The State is requesting a waiver of WIOA Section 129(c)(4) to allow both WIOA and Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) funds to be used to count towards the 20 percent youth work experience requirement. The State's submission did not demonstrate how braiding WIOA and TANF funds to achieve the 20 percent work experience requirement would improve the State's ability to align resources to better serve low-income youth, which the State indicates is the overall goal of the CCMEP. ETA does not approve this request. ETA believes the 20 percent threshold requirement for WIOA Youth funds serves to emphasize work-based learning and pre-apprenticeships as a WIOA priority in serving youth. The State is welcome to reapply at a later date if it is able to demonstrate the benefits of this proposal and the ability to meet the WIOA requirements with the combined funds.

Requested Waiver: Waiver of WIOA Section 129(a)(4) and 20 CFR 681.410 which require that local workforce development areas expend at least 75 percent of local area youth funds to provide services to out-of-school youth.

The State is requesting a waiver of WIOA Section 129(a)(4) and 20 CFR 681.410 to allow both WIOA and TANF funds to count towards the WIOA requirement that a local area expend 75 percent of its youth funds to provide services to out-of-school youth. This waiver is approved on the condition that Ohio will only count expenditures for youth co-enrolled in TANF and in WIOA Title I Youth. This is important for WIOA performance accountability purposes. The approval is also conditioned on the state developing and submitting appropriate metrics to reflect improved outcomes for the out-of-school youth served through the WIOA Youth Program.

The State is requesting another waiver of some of the requirements above to allow the State to calculate the 75 percent out-of-school youth requirement at the State level only, rather than for the State and each individual local area. This waiver is approved on the condition that the state develop and submit appropriate metrics to reflect improved outcomes for the youth served through the WIOA Youth Program.

Requested Waiver: Waiver of 20 CFR 681.550 to allow individual training accounts (ITAs) for in-school-youth.

The State is requesting a waiver of 20 CFR 681.550 to allow local areas to provide in-school youth with ITAs. This waiver is approved on the condition that the state develop and submit appropriate metrics to reflect improved outcomes for the in-school youth served through the WIOA Youth Program.

Additional Information Requirements for the State of Ohio

ETA requests that Ohio submit the following additional details as they relate to the conditionally approved waivers on the 75% out-of-school youth expenditure requirements and the use of ITAs for in-school youth per the requirements of WIOA section 189(i)(3)(B):

- Specific programmatic outcomes, including but not limited to improvements in the state performance accountability measures for youth as found in section 116(b)(2)(A)(ii) of WIOA, that will be achieved by the granted waivers (e.g., increases in credential attainment, increases in measurable skill gains, etc.).
- A description of youth (both in-school and out-of-school) impacted by the waivers, including as appropriate the change in volume of numbers served or positive impact on those with the most barriers to employment.
- A description of the impacts of the waivers on business needs.
- A methodology for calculating the 75% out-of-school youth expenditure rate with the addition of TANF funds.
- The mechanism for reporting against the 75% out-of-school youth expenditure requirement.
- Clarification on the expenditures for which participants are included in the out-of-school youth expenditure rate, including clarification on the plans for co-enrollment in TANF and WIOA.

Final approval is contingent upon ETA's receipt and review of this information. The approval of waivers herein is granted through Program Year 2019, or June 30, 2020, at which time we will revisit the waiver as we evaluate Ohio's next submission of the four-year state plan. The Department supports the goals of improved outcomes through implementation of Ohio's CCMEP. The ETA Chicago Regional Office is available for further discussion and to provide technical assistance to the State to support achieving its goals under CCMEP and improving services to youth, as well as to assist in the state's development of the follow-up information required for the waivers approved herein.