

Subject: Required Statewide Activities
Date: Jan. 31, 2012
State: Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Agency: PA Department of Labor and Industry (L&I)

Statutory and/or regulatory requirements to be waived:

Waiver of WIA Section 134 (a)(2)(B)(ii) and 20 CFR 665.200 (d) requiring the conduct of evaluations of workforce investment activities for adults, dislocated workers, and youth.

Waiver of WIA Section 134 (a)(2)(B)(iii) and 20 CFR 665.200 (e) requiring provision of incentive grants to local areas.

Actions undertaken to remove state or local barriers: There are no state or local barriers.

Goals and expected programmatic outcomes of waiver:

The reduction to 5 percent in the WIA allotment for Program Year 2011 Governor's Reserve funds restricts the commonwealth's ability to effectively fund and carry out all of the required statewide workforce investment activities. The current funding level in the Governor's Reserve is insufficient to cover the cost of evaluations and incentive grants to local areas.

The commonwealth's reduced funds are being used to cover all other applicable required activities per WIA Section 134 (a)(2) and 20 CFR 665.200 (Final Regulations).

Our goal in seeking this waiver is to ensure that the commonwealth may prioritize the use of Governor's Reserve funds for the required activities deemed most essential to the basic functions of the workforce investment system.

Individuals impacted by the waiver:

This waiver will provide the state agency with more flexibility in directing Governor's Reserve funds to those activities that best preserve basic functions of the statewide workforce investment system.

Process for monitoring progress in implementation:

The commonwealth will monitor progress and ensure accountability for federal funds in connection with these waivers by reviewing monthly expenditure, performance, and other reports; contacting the ETA Regional Office liaisons regularly; and using its monitoring and performance accountability system.

Notice to affected local boards:

The proposed waiver request is to be posted to the commonwealth's official website for one week. Concurrently, notification of the posting shall be emailed to the commonwealth's 22 local board chairs; executive directors will be copied.

Public comment:

The proposed waiver request is to be posted to the commonwealth's official website for one week. Any comments or concerns collected due to the posting, along with the commonwealth's review of the public comments received, will be submitted.