

RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR



CHRISTINE QUINN
DIRECTOR

The State of Michigan is submitting a modification request to our Workforce Investment Act (WIA)/ Wagner-Peyser (W-P) State Plan. This request is being submitted in accordance with the WIA Section 189(i)(4)(B) and the WIA Regulations at 20 Code of Federal Regulation (CFR) 661.420(c). Specifically, the State of Michigan is seeking a waiver to permit the Detroit Workforce Development Board (DWDB) the flexibility to use a portion of local area formula allocations to provide financial support to unique research and demonstration projects, specifically the State of Michigan/Detroit Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Employment and Training (E&T) WIA Pilot.

The waiver will assist the State of Michigan to further develop our workforce investment system by leveraging federal, state, and local resources to maximize the availability of training, work supports, and wage subsidies to assist participants with finding and retaining unsubsidized employment. The waiver will allow the expansion of the array of vocational programs and available supportive services to ensure a seamless transition from public assistance to employment.

Per the WIA Regulations at 20 CFR 661.220(d), the State of Michigan is providing an opportunity for public comment on the request until Friday, January 30, 2015. All comments regarding this waiver request may be submitted to:

Ms. Janice M. Cooper, WIA Specialist
Workforce Development Agency, State of Michigan
201 North Washington Square, 5th Floor
Lansing, Michigan 48913
Cooperj1@Michigan.gov
Fax: (517) 373-7794

To ensure your comments are considered, they must be received by no later than 5:00 p.m. on Friday, January 30, 2015.



Victor Office Center | 201 North Washington Square, 5th Floor | Lansing, Michigan 48913
517.335.5858 | TTY 888.605.6722

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CHRISTINE QUINN
DIRECTOR

January 14, 2015

E-mailed 1/14/2015 (tk)

Ms. Rose Zibert, Acting Regional Administrator
Employment & Training Administration
U.S. Department of Labor
230 South Dearborn Street
Chicago, Illinois 60604

Dear Ms. Zibert:

The State of Michigan is submitting a modification request to our Workforce Investment Act (WIA)/Wagner-Peyser (W-P) State Plan. This request is submitted in accordance with the WIA Section 189(i)(4)(B) and the WIA Regulations at 20 Code of Federal Regulation (CFR) 661.420(c). Specifically, the State of Michigan seeks a waiver to permit the Detroit Workforce Development Board (DWDB) the flexibility to use a portion of local area formula allocations to provide financial support to unique research and demonstration projects, specifically the State of Michigan/Detroit Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP) Employment and Training (E&T) WIA Pilot.

This waiver request conforms to the elements of an integrated, effective, job-driven workforce system by:

- Offering work-based learning opportunities with employers through on-the-job training, apprenticeships, subsidized employment, and access to short-term training programs in high-demand fields based on local labor market information.
- Breaking down barriers to accessing job-driven training and hiring by providing access to supportive services, such as, transportation assistance, clothing, and tools. Relevant guidance will also be provided, such as, case management and referral to mental health services. Housing stabilization services will be funded through the United Community Housing Coalition.

This waiver will assist the State to further develop our workforce system by leveraging federal, state, and local resources to maximize the availability of training, work supports, and wage subsidies to assist participants with finding and retaining unsubsidized employment. The waiver will allow the expansion of the array of vocational programs and available supportive services to ensure a seamless transition from public assistance to employment.



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Ms. Rose Zibert
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Your review and immediate consideration of this waiver request is appreciated. Please contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

SIGNED

Christine Quinn, Director
Workforce Development Agency

Attachment
CQ:JC:rwg

cc: Corey Bulluck
Danielle Waddell
Mike Pohnl
Gary Clark

Stephanie Beckhorn
Krista Johnson
Mike Wurmlinger
Brian Marcotte

Chelsea Mates
Janice Cooper
Lisa MacLeod
Yvette Harris

Waiver to Permit the Use of a Portion of Local Area Formula Allocations to Support the State of Michigan/Detroit Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Employment & Training (SNAP E&T) Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Pilot

Statutory and/or regulatory requirements to be waived

WIA Section 134(a)

Michigan requests a waiver to permit the Detroit Workforce Development Board (DWDB) the flexibility to use a portion of local area formula allocations to provide financial support to unique research and demonstration projects, specifically the State of Michigan/Detroit SNAP E&T WIA Pilot.

The waiver permits DWDB to utilize up to 20 percent of local Workforce Investment Act Dislocated Worker and/or Adult funds allocated under Section 133(b)(2)(A) and 133(b)(2)(B) to conduct research and demonstrations, as described under Section 134(a)(3)(A)(iii), and consistent with 20 Code of Federal Regulation (CFR) Section 665.210.

The waiver will create capacity for the DWDB to respond to specific need for job training services and work support to help the chronically unemployed and low-income individuals on public assistance to be competitive as jobs become available. Economic incentives are also needed to spur hiring and create a pathway to unsubsidized employment which leads to self-sufficiency.

Actions undertaken to remove state or local statutory or regulatory barriers

Currently, no state or local statutory or regulatory barriers exist.

Waiver goals, outcomes and measures

The requested waiver would support a coordinated initiative to revitalize Detroit by providing critical resources and economic incentives to help Detroiters find employment and reduce reliance on public assistance.

The goal of this pilot is to leverage federal, state and local resources to maximize the availability of training, work support, and wage subsidies to help Detroit residents find and retain unsubsidized employment. It also expands the array of vocational programs available and supportive services to ensure a seamless transition from public assistance to employment.

Objectives:

- Pilot participants are enrolled and complete basic skill training
- Pilot participants complete technical skill training and/or attain a credential
- Pilot participants enter subsidized employment
- Pilot participants enter unsubsidized employment
- Pilot participants placed in unsubsidized employment retain employment
- Food Assistance Program (FAP) case closures/reduced benefits

Measures:

- Two hundred (200) pilot participants are enrolled and complete basic skill training and attain satisfactory basic skills
- Eighty (80) pilot participants complete technical skill training and/or attain a credential
- Eighty (80) pilot participants complete subsidized employment assignments
- One hundred (100) pilot participants enter unsubsidized employment
- Eighty (80) pilot participants retain unsubsidized employment for 90 days
- One hundred (100) FAP cases close or benefits are reduced due to pilot participation and income attainment

Individuals impacted by the waiver

The demonstration pilot will target 200 individuals between the ages of 18 and 49 who are receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits and participating in the SNAP Employment & Training Program in the City of Detroit.

Pilot participants will be provided with expanded training opportunities, supportive services and coordinated case management services that are currently not available in Detroit. This closer coordination of services is expected to generate improved employment outcomes and help participants make a successful transition from dependency to self-sufficiency. The pilot will also make wage subsidies (such as short-term subsidized employment and on-the-job training) available to employers to encourage job placement of pilot participants with an emphasis on employers who are willing to hire at the end of the subsidy period.

Monitoring progress and implementation

Performance data from the pilot will be provided quarterly by contractors to Detroit Employment Solutions Corporation, the local workforce agency. The data will be stored in the State of Michigan's One-Stop Management Information System (OSMIS). Participant data will also be recorded in the G*Stars case management system. A comprehensive report will be sent to the USDA/Food and Nutrition Services (FNS), which will include both qualitative and quantitative information on the pilot's progress and performance.

Participant enrollment and progress data will be submitted to State of Michigan Department of Human Services (DHS) and Workforce Development Agency (WDA) Directors on a quarterly basis, and will be made available to both DOL and FNS. Project summary outcomes will be submitted to Regional FNS and DOL Administrators on an annual basis.

Notice to local boards and public comment

In accordance with the WIA Regulations at 20 CFR 661.230(d), which provides requirements for public review and comment, Michigan's waiver request is posted at: <http://www.michigan.gov/wda/0,5303,7-304-64178---,00.html> for comment and review by local workforce development boards and the general public. A copy of this waiver request was also provided to all local workforce development boards and their association.

Further, the DWDB will provide a copy of this waiver request to all WDB members for review and comment, along with a copy of the demonstration pilot proposal. The DWDB will also seek meaningful public comment by providing a copy of the waiver request and demonstration pilot

proposal through electronic publication for a period of not less than thirty days, requesting comments and other feedback specific to this initiative.

The review and comment process described above will be carried out concurrently with federal review of this waiver request and the final pilot proposal. Any comment received will be forwarded to the U.S. Department of Labor and included as a modification to the State's Comprehensive Five-Year Plan.