

TRANSMITTAL # 3

MEMORANDUM

May 11, 2005

TO: Workforce Development Council
FROM: Roger B. Madsen, Director
SUBJECT: WIA State Plan for PY'05 and PY'06

ACTION REQUESTED: Recommend approval of the WIA State Plan for PY'05 and PY'06

BACKGROUND:

The State must submit a plan for Title I B of WIA and the Wagner-Peyser Act for Program Years PY'05 and PY'06 in order to receive funds. Typically the State would involve the Council at a much earlier stage in the development of the plan, but we had expected to modify existing plans rather than develop an entirely new plan. We were notified by the U.S. Department of Labor in January that our five-year plans would expire and that a new two year plan would be required. The US Department of Labor requested emergency clearance for issuance of new planning guidelines in February, provided training to states in March on expectations for these new plans and published final guidelines for the plans on April 12, 2005.

Within this time frame, staff have developed plans relying extensively on prior actions of this council. In some cases, however, we have offered new strategies and policy proposals. In the next several transmittals, we share those specific proposals to allow for discussion and input from the Council. We will modify the final plan based on Council recommendations. A copy of the executive summary and the draft plan are attached for your review and comment (Council members only). The plan has also been published on the Department's website at www.cl.Idaho.gov. Copies of comments received from the public by close of business on Monday, May 9, 2005 will be shared at the meeting on May 11th for consideration of the Council.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommend that the Council recommend approval of the Two Year Strategic Plan for PY'05 and PY'06, taking into consideration the recommendations of the Council on Transmittals 5 through 8.

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 Secondary Jay Engstrom (208) 332-3570, ext. 2121

Attachments

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Idaho's Workforce Investment Act Strategic Plan Title I and Wagner-Peyser Act Programs, PY'05 and PY'06

Idaho's proposed WIA Strategic Two Year Plan (PY'05 and PY'06) for Title IB and the Wagner-Peyser Act incorporates the following key provisions:

- Reinforces the Workforce Development Council's goals and objectives and recent commitment to implement the 21st Century Policy Academy strategies to increase collaboration and leveraging of funds. It establishes priorities for the workforce investment system during the two-year period based upon these goals and priorities of the administration for system reform.
- Reflects Governor Kempthorne's proposal to move toward a single statewide area with the expiration of the designation of the six existing areas on June 30, 2005. With funding at its lowest level in more than three decades, maintenance of this system is no longer a viable option. Until regulatory barriers are removed, the Governor is proposing designation of two areas that will operate cooperatively as a single state planning region. The planned structure will be comprised of five former workforce areas and a special region designated as the east-central Idaho planning region.
- The plan articulates the financial efficiencies of a single statewide planning structure and ensures increased services to business and job seekers in the face of the severe federal budget cuts by establishing a goal of spending 50 percent of WIA Adult and Dislocated Worker local funds for direct training and support of businesses and participants.
- Requests a waiver to apply 20 CFR 661.300(f), which permits a state board to carry out the roles of a local board in a single local area to a statewide regional planning area.
- Requests extension of an existing waiver regarding the Workforce Investment Act time limit on the period of initial eligibility of training providers (20 CFR 663.530) through June 30, 2007, the end of the planning cycle for the plan being submitted.
- Delineates Governor Kempthorne's strategies to integrate workforce and education with economic development to achieve the state and federal priorities for a demand driven system that ensures a skilled workforce for the state's high-growth industries.
- Broadens access for businesses and job seekers to the workforce system and its integrated economic development services with a proposal to increase One Stop Centers from six to 24 communities across the state. The council will re-examine the policy framework and negotiate new agreements among one-stop partners during PY'05.
- Provides an opportunity for the Workforce Development Council, working in concert with the Governor's Coordinating Council on Families and Children, to redesign youth programs, taking fuller advantage of opportunities for leveraging funds among organizations serving youth.

- Authorizes the state to rely upon, to the extent possible, approved WIB plans to direct activities during PY'05. The plan ensures seamless service delivery during the transition to a statewide system by stipulating that, where possible, policies and program decisions reflected in local WIA plans will be utilized in PY'05, except where listed in this plan. The Idaho Workforce Development Council will review local policies for modification during PY'05 as it functions as the statewide WIB and assumes responsibilities previously held by WIBs.

- The allocation and reallocation policies for Adult, Youth and Dislocated Worker programs will be retained to ensure equitable distribution to sub-state areas. Additional major policies which will be carried forward into the two-year plan and reviewed by the state council in PY'05 to adapt to a statewide structure include:
 - Transfer authority between Adult and Dislocated Workers.
 - Policies regarding Individual Training Accounts.
 - Administrative policies.
 - Program policies.
 - Monitoring requirements.
 - Participant eligibility.
 - The one-stop policy framework.

- Outlines use of Governor's 15 percent state Funds:
 - Maintains existing strategies for use of funds except that:
 - During transition year PY'05, \$100,000 will be awarded to recognize efficiencies created through participation in the Idaho Workforce Consortium. Incentive funds for performance in PY'04 will not be awarded during PY'05. The council will consider incentive awards for PY'06 based on that year's fund availability. The existing incentive allocation policy is retained.
 - Additional assistance to local areas with high concentrations of eligible youth for PY'05 is reduced to \$100,000 pending availability of carry-over.
 - High-growth projects approved by the council in Region III, IV, V and VI will be continued through PY'05 using PY'04 funds set aside for this purpose.
 - Priorities for any additional funding will be for dislocated workers, additional funding for at-risk youth and additional funding for projects furthering high-growth industries.

This plan may be altered based on public comments and the recommendations of the Idaho Workforce Development Council.