

**State of Mississippi  
Workforce Investment Act  
Waiver Request:**

**Performance Measures for Youth who Participate in Work Experience Only**

The Mississippi Department of Employment Security (MDES) Office of Grant Management (OGM), as the administrative entity of the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) in the State of Mississippi, submits this request for a general waiver to waive the youth performance measures for out-of-school youth ages 18 to 24 served with Recovery Act funds beyond the summer months who participate in work experience only. This waiver would allow Mississippi to use the work readiness indicator as the only indicator of performance for such youth, the same measure that applies to summer youth only participants. The waiver would be applicable for the first six months following the summer of 2009 (October to March). OGM also requests that the program design flexibility for summer youth articulated in Section 16.A of Training and Guidance Letter no. 14-08 apply to such youth who participate in work experience only beyond the summer months. Mississippi plans to use this waiver to facilitate implementation of WIA youth services under the Recovery Act and support the intent of Congress to serve 18-24 year olds through work experience in a time of difficult employment for young people.

**1. Identification of Statutory or Regulatory Requirements to be Waived-**

Federal regulations at WIA Section 136 govern the Performance Accountability System including eligible youth, and at WIA Section 129 govern the Use of Funds for Youth Activities.

**2. Actions Undertaken by the State to Remove State or Local Statutory or Regulatory Barriers-**

There are no State or local statutory or regulatory barriers to implementing the proposed waiver.

**3. Goals of the Waiver and Expected Programmatic Outcomes if Waiver is Granted-**

The anticipated goals are as follows:

- The primary goal is to facilitate services to 18-24 year old youth served under Recovery Act funds and provide work experience in a time of difficult employment for young people.
- The Local Workforce Investment Areas (LWIAs) plan to use this waiver to provide older youth with more time to increase their work readiness skills and to participate in additional workforce

development activities that may help them to transition to post-secondary education or training activities. LWIAs may be able to transition many of these older youth participants into workforce development activities beyond March 2010.

- Youth served with this waiver will receive enhanced service plans that may include transition to the WIA Adult program (co-enrollment in WIA Adult Services) or further education and training opportunities under WIA or Recovery Act funded youth services. Service strategies will be developed to specifically meet the needs of this older, out-of-school youth population.
- This waiver will allow services to older youth who began their participation later in the summer and also assist those older youth who need longer or more varied work experience in order for them to become job ready.

#### **4. Individuals Impacted by the Waiver-**

Out-of school youth ages 18-24 served with Recovery Act funds beyond the summer months, October to March, who participate in work experience only.

#### **5. Process Used to Monitor Progress Upon Implementation of the Waiver-**

The MDES, as the State administrator and overseer of WIA, will monitor all youth programs implemented by the Local Workforce Investment Areas.

#### **6. Local Board and Public Review and Comments-**

This waiver request was provided to the LWIAs for review and comment prior to its submission. LWIAs were encouraged to enlist input from Local Boards when considering this waiver request. This waiver request was also posted on the MDES website, [mdes.ms.gov](http://mdes.ms.gov), for public comment. To date, the MDES has received no comments on the request but will forward to the Department of Labor any comments received after the submission of this waiver to DOL. No other formal public review process was undertaken.

To comment on this waiver request, please contact Jeanine Lilly, Director of the Office of Grant Management, at 601-321-6050 or [stimulus@mdes.ms.gov](mailto:stimulus@mdes.ms.gov).