

This notice is provided to interested parties that a request is being made to the Department of Labor to approve the following waivers to service delivery of the dislocated worker program for the Emergency Public Jobs National Emergency Grant in Iowa. Due to the impact of the flooding that has occurred across the State of Iowa we are requesting flexibility to design and deliver workforce services that allow the Workforce Investment Act to respond to those affected by the disaster. To that end we are requesting the following waivers, or modifications, to our current service delivery of the Workforce Investment Act programming for dislocated workers:

- 1.. Waiver of the employer reimbursement for on-the-job training at WIA Section 101(31)(B) for flood-impacted businesses and businesses training flood-affected individuals. We seek the flexibility to provide employer reimbursement of up to 100 percent of the wage rate of participants to compensate for the employer's extraordinary costs. The State understands that this waiver is limited to six months from date of approval.
2. Waiver of the required 50 percent employer match for customized training at WIA Section 101(8)(C) to permit a sliding scale match based on criteria developed by the State for businesses impacted by the flooding and businesses training flood-impacted individuals.
3. Waiver of the limitation on use of funds for capitalization of businesses at WIA Section 181(e) to permit WIA funds to be used to capitalize a small business up to \$5,000. This will allow the State to assist businesses that were destroyed by the flooding and to create new employment opportunities. The State will ensure that entrepreneurial or microenterprise training is provided for the individuals.
4. Waiver of the prohibition on the use of funds for public service employment at WIA Section 195(10) for local areas impacted by the floods. This will allow Iowa to provide employment for dislocated and long term unemployed individuals in clean-up and recovery efforts. Iowa understands that this waiver will be limited to the length of the NEG grant awarded for emergency public jobs.

Iowa also requests authorization for wage subsidies to be paid to Iowans involved in clean-up and recovery efforts on private sector property through this waiver.

5. Waiver to permit Iowa to exclude individuals affected by the floods from the calculation of state and local performance measures identified at WIA sections 136(b) and (c). We seek to apply this waiver to those participants who have been displaced from their local area as a result of the flooding or who are unable to participate in planned WIA activities due to damage to a facility or entity such as a training provider or on-the-job training employer. Iowa understands that it must include these displaced participants in its annual Workforce Investment Act Standardized Record Data (WISARD) submissions, using a special notation of their status in the global exclusion field.

This information will remain on the website for a 30-day public comment period beginning August 27, 2008. Written comments may be submitted to: Division Administrator, Iowa Workforce Development, Workforce Investment Act, 150 Des Moines St, Des Moines, IA 50309.