

TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT NOTICE	<b>NO.</b> 17-11
	<b>DATE</b> November 28, 2011

**TO:** STATE WORKFORCE AGENCIES  
STATE WORKFORCE ADMINISTRATORS  
STATE AND LOCAL WORKFORCE BOARD CHAIRS AND DIRECTORS  
STATE LABOR COMMISSIONERS

**FROM:** JANE OATES /s/  
Assistant Secretary

**SUBJECT:** Workforce Investment Act/Wagner-Peyser Act (WIA/W-P) Waiver Database

1. **Purpose.** To announce the availability of an updated Workforce Investment Act/Wagner-Peyser Act (WIA/W-P) waiver database and an optional submission template that may be used by states to request waivers.

2. **References.**

- Training and Employment Guidance Letter (TEGL) 17-10: *Instructions for Submitting Workforce Investment Act and Wagner-Peyser Act State Plans and Waiver Requests for Program Year 2011.*
- TEGL 26-09: *Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Waiver Policy and Waiver Decisions for PY 2009 and 2010.*

3. **Waiver Portal.** Section 189(i)(4) of WIA provides the Secretary with the authority to waive certain statutory and regulatory provisions of the WIA and W-P. This general statutory and regulatory waiver authority provides: increased flexibility to states and local areas; an opportunity for states and local areas to organize services in ways that best meet the needs of the state, regional, and local economies; and a means to overcome legal or regulatory barriers that may impede innovation. Since 1998, the Employment and Training Administration (ETA) has granted hundreds of waivers to states. For Program Year (PY) 2011, there are more than 320 approved waivers.

To improve transparency regarding waiver options, and provide the public workforce system and other stakeholders with information about the waiver request process and waiver decisions, ETA recently enhanced information available on its waiver Web site and developed new tools. The “waiver portal” provides menu-driven access to a variety of

waiver resources. The portal provides a summary of the waiver request process and the applicable statute, regulations, and TEGs, as well as other tools and information.

The most significant addition to the waiver portal includes access to a newly developed WIA/W-P waiver database. The database provides users with a number of interactive menus, tools and features, and provides information on waivers requested since PY 2009. Users of the database can: review their own and other state waiver requests, the current status of waiver decisions, and ETA waiver response letters. Users may also search waivers by category and type, and can easily generate and customize reports to meet their particular review or research requirements.

ETA has also developed a template form for state use in submitting waiver requests. While the use of the template is optional, it does provide the preparer(s) of a waiver request with a complete summary of each subject that should be addressed.

- The WIA/W-P waiver portal is available at <http://www.doleta.gov/waivers/>.
- The waiver database is available at <http://waivers.doleta.gov/>.
- The waiver request template is available at <http://www.doleta.gov/waivers/pdf/waiver-template.doc>.

4. **Inquiries**. Please direct specific questions regarding this Training and Employment Notice or general questions about waivers to the appropriate Regional Office contact. ETA welcomes feedback for improving waiver information and resources available on the waiver portal.