

The Maine Department of Labor received the following comments in response to requests for waivers on the following. Comments were accepted from January 14, 2021 through January 28, 2021. Comments received will be included in the waiver requests.

1. Waiver of the requirement to expend 75% of WIOA Title IB Youth funds on out-of-school youth. Approval of this waiver will permit local areas to invest more WIOA funds in work experience activities for eligible high school youth and provide additional supports to eligible, first-time college students with barriers to successfully completing their program and attaining a degree/credential.
2. Waiver of the limitation on use of Individual Training Accounts (ITAs) for in-school-youth attending college. Approval of this waiver will permit the use of WIOA Title IB Youth funds to cover educational costs for low-income youth with barriers who are under age 21 and enrolled in credit-bearing, post-secondary education programs that lead to a recognized credential, degree or diploma.
3. Waiver of the requirement to conduct a formal evaluation of Title IB programs and activities. Maine receives the minimum amount of WIOA funding a State can receive. While able to conduct routine research and evaluation activities, the cost of conducting a formal program evaluation at the level of rigor required under WIOA is not feasible at this time. Approval of this waiver will allow the State to continue to focus limited resources on other WIOA requirements, such as program and financial monitoring, performance reporting and workforce system planning and integration.
4. Waiver of the requirement to develop a Statistical Adjustment Model (SAM) to be used to negotiate and adjust performance in each of Maine's three local areas. This is not a requirement under WIOA or the final regulations, but a requirement identified in Training and Employment Guidance Letter (TEGL) 11-19 issued by the U.S. Department of Labor. The cost to develop a statistical adjustment model for each local area far exceeds available resources. Approval of this waiver will permit the State to continue to utilize the statistical adjustment model developed at the federal level to negotiate and adjust local performance measures.

The State Workforce Board is committed to providing access, equal opportunity and reasonable accommodation to its services, programs and employment. Please contact us should you required accommodation or alternative format materials.

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# MEMO



DATE: January 15, 2021

TO: Christopher Quint, Director, Maine State Workforce Board

FROM: Antoinette Mancusi, CCWI Executive Director  
Charles Crosby III, CCWI President  
Denise Griffin, CCWB Chair

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "A. Mancusi", is placed over the name of the sender in the "FROM" field.

RE: Public Comments on Workforce Development Waivers #1 and #2

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Dear Mr. Quint:

Thank you for applying for these waivers on behalf of the state of Maine and for providing us the opportunity to render these comments.

Coastal Counties Workforce Inc. (CCWI) understands that developing youth work experiences for high-school students is a priority of the Maine Children's Cabinet. CCWI is in agreement that early work experiences are critical to increasing the lifelong earning potential for youth. Indeed, we have focused our WIOA youth programming on the creation of work and On-The-Job (OJT) experiences for our youth participants.

However, given our reduced WIOA Youth allocations, our programs are already facing limited capacity to "move the needle" on the goal of developing work experiences for in-school youth. As things stand currently with our funding, if we increase spending on in-school youth, our capacity to serve the most high-needs youth in our community - out-of-school youth i.e., "dropouts" will be correspondingly reduced. With our WIOA youth allocation having been reduced 44.21% over the last 5 years, we have to make difficult decisions on spending. However, we are eager to explore other funding opportunities to augment our capacity to serve more out of school youth. To that end we invite the State Workforce Board to work with us in obtaining additional funding to serve the out of school youth population.

We support the waivers (#1 and #2) because the waivers seek to provide local workforce boards with options. The language does not require the local boards to unequivocally focus on in-school youth. The waivers allow but do not require such action. It is imperative that any waiver sought broaden, not limit, a local board's authority. Local boards must be able to develop policies, budgets and priorities contingent on local factors, local exigencies, and importantly available local funding.



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January 26, 2021

Virginia Carroll  
Maine Department of Labor  
Bureau of Employment Services, 55 SHS,  
Augusta, Maine 04333

**RE: FOUR WAIVER REQUESTS**

Dear Ms. Carroll:

As Board Chair, I wanted to offer the following comments on the four draft waiver requests currently being reviewed. I hope my input assists with efforts to craft a final product.

I support the request to waive the limitation on Individual Training Accounts (ITAs) for In-School-Youth. This waiver is essential to providing successful completion of post-secondary education. I also support the Request for State and Local Youth Spending Flexibility. I know this waiver works in concert with the first waiver. It is essential to providing a successful high school completion environment in our counties, therefore, strengthening the ability to successfully navigate post-secondary education.

I do not support the remaining waiver requests. I believe all programs need evaluation. Third-party evaluations help to determine the success and validity of programs. Without them, program planners have less information to enhance the value of the programs. I also believe that developing a statistical adjustment model (SAM) for each local area is fitting and far more economical than maybe understood. There are many models of SAM's and we should at least attempt to see what such a model would actually cost.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you should need any further comment. I can be reached at [cnelson@tmfattorneys.com](mailto:cnelson@tmfattorneys.com) or Phone: (207) 828 2005.

Sincerely,

Craig H. Nelson, Esq.  
Board Chair

cc: Kimberley Moore, Director, BES