

U.S. Department of Labor

Assistant Secretary for
Employment and Training
Washington, D.C. 20210



June 23, 2020

The Honorable Gina M. Raimondo
Governor of Rhode Island
State House
Providence, RI 02903

Dear Governor Raimondo:

Thank you for your waiver request submission to the U.S. Department of Labor (Department) regarding certain statutory and regulatory provisions of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) and the accompanying plan to improve the statewide workforce development system. The waiver request was received March 31, 2020, as part of your recent WIOA State Plan submission. This letter provides the Employment and Training Administration's (ETA) official response to your request. This action is taken under the Secretary's authority to waive certain requirements of WIOA Title I, Subtitles A, B, and E, and Sections 8–10 of the Wagner–Peysner Act in WIOA Section 189(i).

Requested Waiver: Waiver of the definition outlined described at WIOA Section 129 (c)(4) and refined in TEGL 21-16 relating to allowable expenditures that may be counted toward the 20 percent Youth Work Experience expenditure requirement.

ETA Response: The State is requesting to waive a definition in guidance. The Department's waiver authority is not necessary for sub-regulatory guidance. The Department will provide technical assistance regarding expenditures that count toward the work experience expenditure requirement in order to assist the State in meeting its goals.

ETA is available to provide technical assistance to you in support of your goals. The Department proposed additional flexibility in its budgets for Fiscal Years 2018 through 2021 to give governors more decision-making authority to meet the workforce needs of their states. If you have questions, feel free to contact my office at (202) 693-2772.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John Pallasch".

John Pallasch

cc: Sarah Blusiewicz, Assistant Director for Workforce Development Services, Rhode Island Department of Labor and Training
Leo Miller, Boston/Philadelphia Regional Administrator, ETA
Amanda Poirier, Federal Project Officer, ETA