



OREGON STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
255 Capitol St. NE, Salem, OR 97310

December 24, 2001

Ms. Emily DeRocco
Assistant Secretary
Employment and Training Administration
United States Department of Labor
200 Constitution Avenue N.W., Room S2307
Washington, D.C. 20210

Dear Ms. DeRocco:

Enclosed is Oregon's request for a waiver to extend the period of initial eligibility of training providers, as described in the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Section 122, to allow the state to more fully develop an effective subsequent eligibility process. The elements of the process will be phased in according to the timeline included in the waiver request.

Oregon's need for the waiver is based upon a decision the state made early on in the implementation of the Eligible Training Provider List (ETPL), to maximize customer choice. The state assumed the majority of the data collection burden for the training providers, and made the commitment to collect the required performance data at the state level through existing data and reporting systems. As a result, Oregon has a very extensive ETPL for a small state with a large, rural area with few training providers. There are currently nearly 900 training programs on the ETPL, and the list is growing. This is in contrast to many other states where providers have withdrawn their programs from the ETPL because of the burden of data gathering and reporting. Unfortunately, taking this approach has placed an immense data development and coordination task onto the state itself, and has resulted in the state being behind in implementing the performance reporting requirements.

Oregon fully supports the WIA concepts of consumer choice and program accountability. The requested extension of initial eligibility will allow us to fully implement them in this state.

If you have any questions about the request, please feel free to contact me or Greg White, ETP Project Lead, at 503-378-8648, ext. 465, greg.white@state.or.us.

Thank you for your consideration of our waiver.

Sincerely,

Cam Preus-Braly
Commissioner

C: Betty Lock

CPB\pr

FILE: H/CAM PREUS-BRALY/152