

From: Beverly, John - ETA

Sent: Friday, March 13, 2009 6:08 PM

Subject: WISPR System Implementation

Dear Colleagues:

As you know, the Employment and Training Administration (ETA) has proposed to implement a new reporting system called the Workforce Investment Streamlined Performance Reporting (WISPR) system. Deputy Assistant Secretary Douglas F. Small had indicated during a call yesterday with the National Association of Workforce Agencies (NASWA) that we would soon be communicating with states about status of WISPR implementation. This is the communication to which he referred.

WISPR was designed to replace the reporting system currently used by states to report performance outcomes and related information for the Workforce Investment Act Title IB state formula grant programs, Wagner-Peyser Act and Jobs for Veterans' state grant services, Trade Adjustment Assistance programs, and National Emergency Grants.

A significant milestone was reached in October 2008 when the Office of Management and Budget approved our WISPR information collection request. ETA had initially considered a phase-in of the new system beginning in July 1, 2009 (i.e., the start of Program Year 2009). However, the challenge posed by the significant role the workforce investment system will play in the President's economic recovery plan caused us to reevaluate an immediate phase-in of WISPR.

As a result of our reevaluation, implementation has been suspended for Program Year (PY) 2009. Rather our top priority will be working with our partners and stakeholders to meet the information and reporting needs associated with implementation of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

During PY 2009 we also expect to engage with you in a dialogue about what information the workforce investment system needs to adequately inform and guide our respective roles as stewards of the workforce system. In this connection, we have begun a dialogue with the National Association of State Workforce Agencies (NASWA) to determine the best way to work together to build a workforce information system that is valued by all partners -- from the local to national level

Notwithstanding the deferral of WISPR implementation, those states that are currently serving as WISPR demonstration states may continue to report using the system. States that are not demonstration states, but are prepared to begin full implementation on July 1, 2009, should work through their Regional Administrator to coordinate implementation with ETA's national office.

ARRA implementation and the opportunity to design together a comprehensive workforce information system are exciting challenges that I look forward to addressing in partnership with you.

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