

Ottawa County Michigan Works! Agency
Waiver Request: Individual Training Accounts for Out of School Youth
for Program Year 2010

Ottawa County Michigan Works (OCMWA) is requesting a waiver of WIA statutory and regulatory requirements prohibiting Individual Training Accounts (ITAs) for Out-of-School youth. This waiver will give the MWA the ability to assist out-of-school youth participants prepare for employment by utilizing ITA approved training providers with youth funds, instead of co-enrolling them in Adult or DW for the ability to utilize ITA approved training providers.

Statutory Requirements to be Waived

Ottawa County Michigan Works is seeking a waiver of restrictions on the use of ITA's for youth enrolled in youth funding only in section 664.510 of the WIA. The waiver would allow the use of ITA's using youth funds for out-of-school youth who are 18-21 years old. These funds will be expended as required on allowable activities for those persons who are eligible to receive services. Program and fiscal reporting will be conducted as required as well.

State or Local Statutory Barriers

There are no existing state or local statutory or regulatory barriers to implementation of this waiver request.

Outcomes to be Achieved by obtaining the Waiver

The outcome of this waiver will be to better prepare our youth participants for employment. The outcome will also be further ability to positively affect WIA common measures as well as state performance measures associated with out-of-school youth. The use of ITA approved training providers allows youth to better participate in choosing their educational and training activities. Due to the limited amount of Adult & DW funds available allowing ITA's using youth funds, and not requiring the youth to co-enroll in Adult or DW, gives us the ability to free up these limited funds for clients who are only Adult or DW eligible.

Description of Monitoring Activities

Ottawa County Michigan Works! Agency contracts with a CPA firm, to conduct fiscal and programmatic monitoring of our administrative office as well as all of our service providers.

Ottawa County Michigan Works! has both a fiscal supervisor and program supervisor(s) who conduct desk reviews of all programs and monitor data for accuracy and completeness. The fiscal supervisor for Ottawa County Michigan Works monitors expenditures to ensure compliance with state and federal fiscal guidelines.

Description of Public Review Process

This waiver request will be made available for download on our website www.miottawa.org/michiganworks for a period of 30 days in order to allow for public review and comment. Two methods will be available for public comment:

Email to Program Supervisor, or
Mail to the Ottawa County Michigan Works office.

Any public comments that express disagreement with this waiver request will be forwarded to the Department of Energy, Labor, and Economic Growth.