The State of Michigan is seeking approval of a modification to our Workforce Investment Act (WIA)/Wagner-Peyser (W-P) Strategic Plan in accordance with the WIA Regulations at 20 Code of Federal Regulation (CFR) 662.230(b)(2). Specifically, the modification to our WIA/W-P Five-Year Strategic Plan is a result of the creation of a new state department and ensuing changes in organizational responsibilities.

Executive Order No. 2014-12, effective March 15, 2015, created a new state department called the Department of Talent and Economic Development (TED). This new department is comprised of the Michigan Strategic Fund, the Michigan State Housing Development Authority, and the State Land Bank Fast Track Authority. The Executive Order also created the Talent Investment Agency within the TED, which includes the Workforce Development Agency, the Governor’s Talent Investment Board, and the Unemployment Insurance Agency.

Per the WIA Regulations at 20 CFR 661.220(d), the State of Michigan is providing an opportunity for public comment on the request until Thursday June 25, 2015. All comments regarding this request may be submitted to:

Ms. Janice M. Cooper, WIA Specialist
Workforce Development Agency, State of Michigan
201 North Washington Square, 5th Floor
Lansing, Michigan 48913
Cooperj1@michigan.gov
Fax: (517) 373-7794

To ensure your comments are considered, they must be received by no later than 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 25, 2015.
May 5, 2015

Ms. Rose Zibert, Acting Regional Administrator
Employment & Training Administration
U.S. Department of Labor
230 South Dearborn Street, Room 628
Chicago, Illinois 60604

Dear Ms. Zibert:

The State of Michigan is submitting a modification to our Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Wagner-Peyser (W-P) State Plan. The request is submitted in accordance with the WIA Regulations at 20 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 661.230 (b) (2). Specifically, the State of Michigan is submitting a modification to our WIA/W-P State Plan based on the creation of a new state department and ensuing changes in organizational responsibilities.

Executive Order No. 2014-12, effective on March 15, 2014, created a new state department called the Department of Talent and Economic Development (TED). This new department is comprised of the Michigan Strategic Fund (MSF), the Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA), and the State Land Bank Fast Track Authority. The Executive Order also created the Talent Investment Agency (TIA) within the TED, which includes the Workforce Development Agency (WDA), the Governor’s Talent Investment Board (GTIB) and the Unemployment Insurance Agency (UIA).

The TIA is responsible for all programs within the executive branch of government related to talent services and programs, including job preparedness, career-based education, skilled trades training, incumbent worker training, employment assistance, STEM training programs, and programs targeted at the structurally unemployed.

The TIA is tasked with the following responsibilities:

- Reviewing and assessing all talent service-related programs in State government;
- Making recommendations on existing and proposed talent services;
- Providing information and training to State departments regarding talent services;
- Serving as the Governor’s liaison to State departments and workforce regions with respect to talent services and programs;
- Requesting advice and assistance from State departments with regard to the improvement and coordination of talent service responsibilities; and
- Serve as the clearinghouse for communications with the U.S. Department of Labor.
The TIA functions as the clearinghouse for all communications with the U.S. Department of Labor (USDOL) relating to talent services and as the coordinating office for State departments with responsibilities relating to talent services and programs related to the Michigan Works! system, including but not limited to, Michigan Rehabilitation Services (Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act [WIOA] Title IV) within the Department of Human Services, the Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency within the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, the Bureau of Services to Blind Persons within the Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs, and the Prisoner Reentry Programs and Community Support Services Program administered by the Department of Corrections.

Within the TIA, the WDA will oversee all WIOA Title I, Title II, and Title III programs. The UIA will continue its administration of Michigan's unemployment insurance program within the TIA. This new organizational structure permits the alignment of services and operations to better serve Michigan's residents and creates the ability to deliver services in a more comprehensive and cohesive way, consistent with the USDOL's expectations related to the implementation of the WIOA. An organizational chart depicting the new structure is included as an attachment to this letter.

Your review and immediate consideration of this plan modification is greatly appreciated. Please contact Ms. Stephanie Beckhorn, Director, Office of Talent Policy and Planning at 517-241-4078, or via email at BeckhornS@michigan.gov with any questions regarding this request.

Sincerely,

Christine Quinn, Director
Workforce Development Agency

CQ:JC:tk
Attachment (Organizational Chart)
cc:   Corey Bulluck  Mike Pohnl
      Danielle Waddell  Stephanie Beckhorn
      Stephanie Comai  Krista Johnson
      Gary Clark
      Joe Billig
      WIA State Coordinators
      Mike Wurmlinger
**Note: The Workforce Development Agency consists of WIOA Title I, Title II, and Title III programs, and the Governor's Talent Investment Board.**