



Arkansas PY '26-27 WIOA Combined State Plan Modification- Waiver Package

EXHIBIT B

Waiver Requested	Purpose	Issue / Problem It Addresses
State Workforce Board Functions as Local Workforce Development Board	Allows the Governor to designate the Arkansas Workforce Development Board to carry out the roles and responsibilities of the local boards for the purpose of operating as a single statewide planning area in accordance with 20 CFR 679.310(f).	Ten separate local boards create fragmentation, duplicated administration, uneven capacity, and slowed decision-making. A statewide board streamlines governance and improves accountability. Arkansas's proposal will generate substantial and measurable improvements in service delivery and fiscal efficiency redirecting approximately \$6M annually from duplicative operating and administrative structure expenses to direct participant services.
State Plan Serving as Regional Plan	Permits the WIOA Combined State Plan to also function as the regional plan, consistent with Arkansas' move to a single planning region.	Separate state, regional and local plans are duplicative and unnecessary in a single planning area model. This waiver reduces paperwork and aligns planning with the new governance and operation structure, while still maintaining unique regional data within the state plan.
State Workforce Board Composition Flexibility	Allows the state to change the structure and operation of the state board to streamline overall state board membership and better address the employment and skills needs of the state.	Prioritizes employer-driven representation addressing the lack of industry insight needed to align workforce strategies with real labor-market demand.
Reallocation of Funds Across Local Workforce Areas	Provides flexibility in redistributing funds among workforce areas, only if funds are unspent or unobligated.	Arkansas will continue to use a formula funding methodology to allocate funds to ten local workforce development areas. This waiver gives the state the flexibility to shift resources where they are most needed, addressing the persistent issue of uneven demand and funding imbalances that limit timely responsiveness to employer and jobseeker needs.
WIOA Training & Supportive Services Dollars-Last Dollar Flexibility	Allow WIOA Title I programs to fund training/supportive services without first verifying whether participants can obtain other grant assistance (e.g., Pell).	The required verification process creates delays, administrative burden, and barriers for participants needing rapid enrollment in training or supportive services. Removes barriers for low-income participants, and reduce complexity of funding provisions.



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Network of Affiliate Workforce Centers in lieu of required Comprehensive Centers	This waiver would allow Arkansas to leverage virtual and remote services as well as utilize a robust network of affiliated sites that leverage strategic co-location with partners to minimize infrastructure costs while maximizing reach.	Reduces the financial and administrative burden on the partners required to support the infrastructure costs of (at least one) comprehensive centers in each of the ten workforce development areas.
14 Youth Program Elements	Enables increased flexibility in providing the services most needed. This will allow Arkansas to focus on work-based learning and occupational skills training opportunities while remaining agile and responsive to emerging needs.	Eliminates the one-size-fits-all rigid requirement to establish separate MOUs with a network of multiple providers who may not necessarily offer services and resources needed by youth. Allows Arkansas to prioritize activities that most effectively engage and support youth.
Renewal- Waiver to Reduce Out-of-School Youth (OSY) Expenditure Requirement Below 75%	Provide flexibility to invest more in in-school youth populations, targeting career pathways aligned with Perkins V.	The 75% OSY requirement restricts Arkansas' ability to support early career exposure, dual credit, and CTE-aligned pathways.
Renewal- Individual Training Accounts (ITAs) for In-School Youth	Expands access to employer- aligned training options and funding to support youth enrolled in traditional educational programs.	Current WIOA regulations limit the use of ITAs for participants enrolled as in-school-youth.

