Wagner-Peyser Act Staffing Proposed Rule

MICHIGAN'S JOB SEEKERS AND EMPLOYERS ARE AT RISK. THE MICHIGAN WORKS! NETWORK CAN PROTECT THEM, BUT ONLY IF WE STAY WHOLE.

<u>A proposed rule from the U.S. Employment and Training Administration</u> would have a devastating impact on the structure and delivery of workforce services in Michigan, leaving job seekers and employers with a disjointed, less efficient structure and fewer staff to serve them.

The proposed changes impact Wagner-Peyser Act staffing, and recommend disrupting services to job seekers and employers by dismantling the successful "One-Stop Model" of workforce development and allowing only state merit staff to provide Michigan's Employment Service support at locations convenient to state merit staff, not to job seekers.

We must maintain the Michigan Works! network's demonstration status, allowing it to continue successful Employment Service delivery and support to Michigan's job seekers and employers without disruption.





The ETA's primary rationale for the proposed rule is the need for state merit staff to be available to support unemployment agencies during unemployment surges.



This claim is entirely without merit. During the COVID-19 pandemic, ES staff already funded by Wagner-Peyser at Michigan Works! Agencies around the state quickly stepped in to support Unemployment Insurance Agency staff, fielding more than 1.3 million unemployment calls, filing 6,447 claims, and unlocking 64,375 accounts.



In 2021, the 400 Michigan Works! staff partially or totally funded by Wagner-Peyser, served 86,303 job seekers, including 3,044 ex-offenders, 3,559 individuals with disabilities, and 6,889 individual who were long-term unemployed.



The staffing change would limit services that provide equitable access to jobs and education including language interpretation services, virtual services and reasonable accommodation to individuals with disabilities.



One in five of those serving job seekers could become job seekers themselves.



Without Wagner-Peyser funding, over 220 Michigan Works! staff will be at risk for layoff – roughly 21% of the 1,000 workforce staff in Michigan.



Contact:

Ryan Hundt
CEO, Michigan Works! Association
HundtR@michiganworks.org

Wagner-Peyser Act Staffing Proposed Rule

WHAT ARE THE IMPACTS OF THE PROPOSED STAFFING RULE CHANGE?

- Services currently provided by over 400 Michigan Works! staff would be reduced to approximately 100 State of Michigan staff, resulting in significantly longer wait times for job seekers and delays in services for the 32,000 businesses served annually.
- The potential loss of a number of the 99 full and satellite Michigan Works!
 American Job Centers with coverage across the state, particularly in the areas that need them the most.
- In Michigan, our One-Stop Operator statute would be violated. Without Wagner-Peyser Act staffing, we would be legally out of compliance.
- The forced discontinuation of workforce services to Michigan residents who are most vulnerable including refugees and immigrants, veterans and youth.
- A dramatic reduction of business services to the 32,000 Michigan employers served annually, including decreased assistance filling job openings, reduction and elimination of job fairs, cutting of industry-led collaboratives, and decreased or no access to job training programs.

The loss of Wagner-Peyser funding means the potential loss of innovative programs and services for job seekers and employers. Wagner-Peyser allows us the ability to leverage other programs and funds to better serve people in new and powerful ways. Without the funding, we will have to make difficult decisions on what supports to cut for some of our most vulnerable communities.

Jennifer Llewellyn
 Manager, Workforce Development
 Director, Oakland County Michigan Works!

66

"It's not just the potential loss of employment I'm concerned about. Employment Service isn't a full time job for just one person. It's a portion of time for many people, integrated throughout our teams. This change would create unnecessary wait times and potential gaps in where people can access services."

Jacob Maas
 Chief Executive Officer, West Michigan Works!

As Michigan continues its economic recovery, we should focus on expanding access to opportunities. The Wagner-Peyser Act Staffing proposed rules would do the opposite.