

MASSACHUSETTS  
**Workforce Investment Act**  
STEERING COMMITTEE

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**WIA Communication No. 00-25**

Policy  Information

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**To:** Chief Elected Officials  
Workforce Investment Board Chairs  
Workforce Investment Board Directors  
Area Directors or Designee  
Career Center Directors  
DET Regional Directors  
DET Area Directors

**cc:** WIA State Partners

**From:** Angelo Buonopane, Director  
Department of Labor and Workforce Development

**Date:** July 17, 2000

**Subject:** ETA Disability Grants

The Institute for Community Inclusion (ICI) at the University of Massachusetts is planning on submitting an application to the U.S. Department of Labor for a Work Incentive Grant to enhance the capacity of the One-Stop system to meet the needs of people with disabilities. This grant is being submitted in partnership with the Department of Labor and Workforce Development (DLWD) in collaboration with the State Workforce Investment Board (SWIB) and other state agencies. The length of the project would be 2 1/2 years.

The basic concept of this project is to build and enhance the capacity of the One-Stop system to meet the needs of people with disabilities, by working at two levels: statewide and locally. On a statewide level, the focus will be on general policy, and system development issues. However, given the decentralized nature of the workforce investment system in Massachusetts, and fairly autonomous nature of each of the Sixteen local workforce areas, in order to have the necessary impact, it is vital the focus of the project not be exclusively on broad statewide Initiatives. Therefore, extensive activity will take place within each of the Sixteen workforce areas over the course of the project (5 in year one, 6 in year two, and 5 in year three).

**Action Required:** The Department of Labor and Workforce Development working in conjunction with the State Workforce Investment Board as well as the Institute for Community Inclusion anticipates submitting the grant application the end of this month.

For those areas that have not been working with the Institute for Community Inclusion, a copy will be available for local review after it is submitted to USDOL. If we should be successful and receive funding through this grant, DLWD working with the Institute for Community Inclusion anticipates working very closely with LWIBs, working together to ensure that the details of the capacity building system meets the needs of the 16 different local areas.

We would be interested in learning, which Local Workforce Investment Boards are anticipating applying for a grant, and would appreciate a copy of that proposal after it has been submitted to USDOL.

DLWD is also looking for letters or e-mails of support from the Local areas, either specific to the DLWD/ICI proposal or generally in support of the Commonwealth building a statewide support system. The intention is to include language in the grant application that local areas support this concept. Those letters or e-mails should be sent to Kim McLaughlin no later than close of business on July 25, 2000 at either (ext. 104) at (617) 727-6573 or [kim.mclaughlin@state.ma.us](mailto:kim.mclaughlin@state.ma.us)

**Questions and Comments:** Any questions related to this correspondence should be directed to Kim McLaughlin (ext. 104) at (617) 727-6573.

**Filing:** Please file this in your notebook of previously issued WIA Communication Series Issuance's as #00-25.