

WE ARE YOUR DOL



Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor
Roberta L. Reardon, Commissioner

April 9, 2019

Mr. Stephen Goss
Audit Director of State Government Accountability
Office of the State Comptroller
110 State Street 11th Floor
Albany, NY 12236

Re: Labor Department 90 Day Response to: Comptroller's Audit of New York Youth Jobs

Dear Mr. Goss:

Pursuant to Section 170 of the Executive Law, I write to provide the Department of Labor's (the "Department") 90-day response to the Office of the State Comptroller's ("OSC") audit of New York Youth Jobs (Report 2017-S-69, the "OSC Report"), which made certain recommendations regarding the Department's Division of Employment & Workforce Solutions (the "Division") program application, program definitions, program requirements, as well as risk based procedures.

Recommendations and Responses:

Below are the Comptroller's recommendations along with steps the Department has taken to implement these recommendations:

Comptroller's Recommendations

1. Re-evaluate the employer Program application to determine whether, and how, to capture information such as employee advancement and benefit opportunities.
2. Provide and publicize Program-specific definitions for underemployment and unemployment and align them with Program requirements.
3. Develop risk-based procedures to ensure that only eligible youth are certified for the Program. Steps may include using records from Tax and Finance or other sources to verify applicant information on a sample basis.

In response to OSC recommendations:

1. The Department is committed to connecting our customers with employment opportunities that promote and foster career pathways and advancement and benefit opportunities. To that end, the Department will add language to the New York Youth Jobs Program Business Certificate encouraging businesses to share in our commitment to offer youth a career they can learn and advance in. The Department has added the following language to the NYYJP Business Certification notice: *"The New York State Department of Labor strongly encourages you to discuss employment advancement and benefit opportunities with your New York Youth Jobs Program participants."*

Additionally, the Department will capture employment advancement and benefit opportunities on the business application. The Department is working with New York State Office of Information Technology Services (ITS) to implement this change. ITS has provided an estimated timeframe of 6-8 weeks until completion.

2. The Department will define "Unemployed" individuals and "Underemployed" on the NYSDOL website by April 5, 2019.

WIOA definition of "Underemployment": Individuals employed less than full-time who are seeking full-time employment and/or individuals who are employed in a position that is inadequate with respect to their skills and training.

To clearly align with Program Requirements, the Department has modified the youth application and has added the above language to the employment status section.

3. The Department is implementing various risk-based procedures to ensure data is captured securely and only eligible youth are certified for the New York Youth Jobs Program. The Department will add the certified youth's date of birth to the Confirmation of Hire form as an additional value to be matched to the youth's certification. The updated procedure will now require two submissions of the youth's date of birth, which will add a second layer of data checking and will minimize the risk of a youth inadvertently being approved for the program if they do not meet the age requirement.

The Department is working with ITS to implement this change. ITS has provided an estimated timeframe of 6-8 weeks until completion.

If you have any comments, please contact Wendy Luft, Associate Auditor, at (518) 457-9441.

Sincerely,



Roberta Reardon
Commissioner

Cc: Nathaalie Carey
Karen Coleman
Russell Oliver
Conor Donnelly