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To: Local Workforce Area Signatory Officials
Local Workforce Area Board Chairs
Local Workforce Area Administrators
SC Works Operators

From: Nina Staggers, AED – Workforce Development

Subject: **Out-of-School Youth (OSY) Expenditure Waiver**

Date: May 31, 2023

The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Youth Program is a comprehensive youth employment program designed to serve eligible youth ages 14-24 who face barriers to education, training, and employment. WIOA § 129(a)(4)(A) and 20 CFR § 681.410 requires local workforce development areas (LWDAs) to use a minimum of 75% of WIOA youth funds on out-of-school youth (OSY). To increase flexibility, reach performance goals, and increase services to eligible in-school youth (ISY), the SC Department of Employment and Workforce (DEW) has requested and been granted a waiver of the 75% OSY expenditure requirement by the US Department of Labor (DOL). **Effective July 1, 2022, this waiver reduces SC's obligation for OSY expenditures to 50% for Program Years 2022 and 2023.** Attached to this memo are SC's waiver request letter and DOL's letter of approval.

Increasing Services to In-School Youth

Allocating less funds to OSY will allow WIOA Youth programs to provide increased outreach to ISY with barriers to employment. These increased services include:

- Expanding access to employment and training services for ISY in rural communities
- Increasing engagement and expanding assistance to ISY with barriers to education and employment
- Increasing collaboration with partner programs to assist ISY in foster care, vocational rehabilitation programs, and the juvenile justice system
- Increasing use of work-based learning programs for career exploration and employment preparation

LWDAs are encouraged to increase services provided to ISY.

Questions may be directed to WRC@dew.sc.gov.