

## **AUDIT RESOLUTION POLICY**

EDD Revision Date: 5/25/06

WIB Review Date: 4/27/06; 3/22/07

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

#### **Purpose:**

This document establishes the Madera County Workforce Investment Board's policy on the procedures for the resolution of audit findings and disallowed costs as required under WIA Directives WIAD05-16 and WIAD05-17 which require that all subrecipients expending Workforce Investment Act (WIA) funds to comply with federal and State requirements for resolution of audit findings and disallowed costs.

#### **Scope:**

This policy requires that all subrecipients expending Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Funds shall comply with federal and State audit resolution requirements.

#### **Effective Date:**

This policy is effective on the date of issuance of EDD Directive WIAD05-16.

### **REFERENCES:**

- EDD Directive WIAD05-17
- Title 20 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Sections 667.200 (b) and 667.500(a)
- Title 29 CFR Section 95.26
- Title 29 CFR Section 95.53
- Title 29 CFR Section 97.26
- Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Circular A-123, Subject: Audits of States, Local Governments and Non-Profit Organizations (June 24, 1997)

### **BACKGROUND:**

Entities receiving awards of WIA funds must meet the audit requirements of OMB Circular A-133. Title 20 CFR Section 667.200(b)(2)(ii) requires that commercial organizations that expend more than \$500,000 have either an organization-wide audit conducted in accordance with OMB Circular A-133 or a program specific financial and compliance audit. These regulations require the establishment of procedures for audit resolution.

Title 29 CFR Sections 95.26 and 97.26 require each entity receiving funds under the WIA to comply with Title 31 USC Chapter 75.

Title 31 USC Section 7502 further requires each pass-through entity to:

1. Monitor the subrecipient's federal awards through site visits, limited scope audits, or other means;
2. Review audits of subrecipients to determine if prompt and appropriate corrective action has been taken with respect to audit findings; and
3. Require each of its subrecipients of federal awards to permit, as a condition of receiving federal awards, independent auditor or the pass-through entity to have such access to the subrecipient's records and financial statements as may be necessary

The procedures apply to State resolution of subrecipient audits and to subrecipient resolution of lower-tier subrecipient audits. In addition, the Compliance Review Division (CRD) may use these procedures in resolving the findings from other reviews, such as incident and investigation reports, and monitoring. The CRD is responsible for State level audit resolution and coordination of State-level hearings. Address mail as follows:

Compliance Resolution Unit  
Compliance Review Division, MIC 22M  
Employment Development Department  
P.O. Box 826880  
Sacramento, CA 94280-0001

## **POLICIES AND PROCEDURES:**

### **Definitions:**

*Auditee* as defined in OMB Circular A-133, is a nonfederal entity that expends federal awards that must be audited under the circular.

*Awarding agency* means (1) with respect to a grant, Department of Labor; and (2) with respect to a subgrant or contract, the party that awarded the subgrant or contract.

*Federal award* means "Federal financial assistance and Federal cost-reimbursement contracts. It includes Federal awards made directly by Federal awarding agencies or indirectly by recipients of Federal awards or subrecipients. It does not include procurement contracts, under grants or contracts, used to buy goods or services from vendors . . . Federal financial assistance means assistance received or administered to carry out a program".

*Initial Determination* is a preliminary decision on whether to allow or disallow questioned costs and resolve any nonmonetary findings.

*Final Determination* is the awarding agency's final decision to disallow the cost and the status of nonmonetary findings.

*Nonmonetary finding* is an administrative finding.

*Subrecipient*, in this directive, refers to local areas, lower-tier subrecipients, and subgrantees.

**Policy:**

Subrecipients that award WIA funds to lower-tier subrecipients must have written audit resolution policies and procedures. For subrecipients, audit resolution consists of a three-part process that includes the Initial Determination, informal resolution period, and the Final Determination. Receipt of the Initial and Final Determinations by the auditee must be documented by the awarding agency.

LWIA Grants, Subrecipient or Cooperative Agreements

Each grant, subrecipient agreement, or cooperative agreement, of the LWIA or its subrecipient, shall contain the following requirement:

As a condition of receiving WIA funds, the independent auditor or monitor of the LWIA, and the Employment Development Department (EDD) auditors, investigators, monitors and their representatives, shall at all times during the period that the grant is in force and for a period of four years thereafter, have access to all related records and financial statements and to individuals with knowledge of the records and financial statements as may be necessary to ensure compliance with the WIA statute, regulations, and directives.

Audit Requirements

Each LWIA will conduct and ensure that each of its subrecipients expending \$500,000 or more of federal funds in fiscal years ending after December 31, 2003 conducts an audit in accordance with Section 184 of the WIA, Title 20 CFR Section 667.200, Title 29 CFR Part 95 or 97 (as applicable), and Title 31 USC Chapter 75.

**Procedures:**

I. Subrecipient Standards

A. Subrecipients must:

1. Review the audit report of their subrecipients to ensure compliance with the requirements of OMB Circular A-133.
2. Establish an audit resolution file to document the disposition of reported questioned costs and corrective actions taken for all findings.
3. Complete a control log. (The log must contain the date of the audit, the period covered by the audit, the date that the audit was received, the auditor, the questioned costs, the administrative findings, the date or dates of the Initial and Final Determinations, and documentation of decisions regarding the disallowed costs and administrative findings.)

4. Issue a letter of Initial Determination based on the audit review. The Initial Determination letter includes:
    - a. A list of all questioned costs.
    - b. Whether the costs are allowed or disallowed, including the reasons with appropriate citations for such actions.
    - c. Acceptance or rejection of any corrective action taken to date, including corrective action on administrative findings.
    - d. Possible sanctions.
    - e. The opportunity for informal resolution of no more than 60 days from the date of Initial Determination.
  5. During informal resolution, the auditee may provide documentation to support allowability of costs and proposed corrective action of administrative findings. Informal resolution discussions may be held by telephone, if necessary, but in person is preferable. When a meeting is held, provide a sign-in sheet. The sign-in sheet must be retained as part of the audit file. The meeting must be documented either with a voice recording or written notes. Negotiations of repayments can be initiated at this time.
  6. Issue a written Final Determination. The Final Determination includes:
    - a. Reference to the Initial Determination.
    - b. Summation of the informal resolution meeting, if held.
    - c. Decisions regarding the disallowed costs, listing each disallowed cost and noting the reasons for each disallowance.
    - d. Questioned costs that have been allowed by the awarding agency and the basis for the allowance.
    - e. Demand for repayment of the disallowed costs.
    - f. Description of the debt collection process and other sanctions that may be imposed if payment is not received.
    - g. Rights to a hearing.
    - h. The status of each administrative finding.
- B. The audit resolution process must be completed within six months after receipt of the subrecipient's audit report and must ensure that the subrecipient takes appropriate and timely corrective action.
- C. The audit file must be assembled for ease of reference in the event of future action. The file must be tabulated with the most current documentation first. The file should include the following:
1. Final Determination and proof of receipt by the subrecipient.
  2. Additional documentation submitted as part of the informal resolution process:
    - Notes related to the informal resolution.
    - Sign-in sheets from any informal resolution meetings.
  3. Initial Determination and proof of receipt by the subrecipient.

4. Response to the final audit report.
5. Final audit report.

- D. Subrecipients must establish local-level hearing procedures. The awarding agency must reserve the right to overturn a hearing officer's decision when it determines that noncompliance with the applicable act or its regulations still exists.

The hearing allows both parties the right to present either written or oral testimony, call and question witnesses in support of their position, present oral and written arguments, examine records and documents relevant to the issues, and be represented. The hearing shall be recorded mechanically or by court reporter.

The auditee has 30 calendar days after the Final Determination is issued to submit a written request for a hearing. At least 10 calendar days before the hearing, written notice of the date and site of the hearing must be provided to the auditee. The 10-day notice may be shortened with written consent of both parties. The auditee may withdraw the hearing request; the withdrawal request must be submitted in writing.

A decision must be issued by the hearing officer within 60 days of the request filing date.

An auditee has 10 days from receipt of the adverse decision to file an appeal of the local hearing officer's adverse decision to the State Review Panel. If a local hearing is not held or the decision is not rendered timely, the auditee has 15 days from the date on which the hearing should have been held or the decision should have been issued to file an appeal with the State Review Panel.

- E. If the auditee appeals the decision of the awarding agency's hearing officer to the State, the awarding agency will send Compliance Review Division (CRD) the complete audit for review by the State Review Panel. Within 30 days of receipt by the CRD of the auditee's written appeal, the State Review Panel will be convened to review all evidence and issue a decision based on the evidence without consideration of any imposed sanctions.

There is no administrative appeal beyond this level.

- F. The awarding agency shall ensure correction of any unresolved administrative findings. The awarding agency should determine the status of the unresolved administrative findings through its monitoring process and determine that appropriate corrective action has been taken. A copy of the monitoring report substantiating the implementation of the appropriate corrective action must be filed with the audit report.

## II. State Audit Resolution

- A. If there are no audit findings, the CRD will notify the auditee that no further action will be taken regarding the audit.
- B. If the audit identifies an administrative finding, questioned costs, or cost recommended for disallowance, the CRD will:

1. Establish an audit resolution file to document the disposition of each finding and the corrective action taken to resolve each finding.
2. Issue a written notice of Initial Determination after the audit is reviewed.
3. Provide the auditee an opportunity for informal resolution and submission of additional documents within 60 days from the date of the notice of Initial Determination to resolve questioned costs and/or administrative findings.
4. Issue a written notice of Final Determination.

### III. State Hearings

All appeals of State audit determinations, including amendments and withdrawals, shall be in writing. Requests for hearings must be made within 30 days from the date of the Final Determination.

The State hearing officer will provide written notice to the concerned parties of the date, time, and place of the hearing at least 10 calendar days before the scheduled hearing. Both parties will have the opportunity to present oral and written testimony, call and question witnesses in support of their position, present oral and written arguments, examine records and documents relevant to the issue(s), and be represented. The State hearing officer will prepare a proposed decision and submit it to the Employment Development Department (EDD) Director or designee. The EDD reserves the right to overturn the decision of the hearing officer.

**There is no administrative appeal beyond this level.**

### IV. Stand-In Costs

During the audit resolution process, the auditee may propose the use of stand-in costs to substitute for the disallowed costs. To be considered, stand-in costs must be incurred for allowable WIA costs that were reported as uncharged WIA program costs, included within the scope of the audit, and accounted for in the auditee's financial system. The stand-in cost must have been expended in support of the same title and program year as the costs they propose to replace, and the costs must not cause a violation of the cost limitations and requirements. Stand-in costs must be actual expenses paid with nonfederal funds. Cash match in excess of the required match may also be considered for use as stand-in costs.