OFFICE OF
THE GOVERNOR

NO. 25 FY 19/20
DATE March 27, 2020

AN ORDER REGARDING THE MAINE QUALITY CENTERS PROGRAM

WHEREAS, I proclaimed a state of emergency on March 15, 2020 to authorize the use of emergency powers in order to expand and expedite the State's response to the many different effects of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, this Order is necessary to address numerous administrative and procedural issues identified by the Maine Community College System (MCCS) in its administration of the Maine Quality Centers; and

WHEREAS, these issues require certain acts to ensure the expeditious delivery of job training programs to address the effects of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the governor's emergency powers expressly include the authority to suspend the enforcement of a statute prescribing the procedures for conduct of state business;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Janet T. Mills, Governor of the State of Maine, pursuant to 37-B M.R.S. Ch. 13, including but not limited to 37-B M.R.S. §742(1)(C)(1) and (12) and §834, do hereby Order as follows:

I. ORDERS

To expedite training for critical jobs, the following applies to online training offered by the Maine Quality Centers Program and established to respond to the workforce and economic effects of COVID-19:

A. The residency requirement of 20-A M.R.S. §12726(2) may be suspended when the MCCS President reasonably determines that training goals can be advanced thereby; provided that Maine residents are given priority access to the training.

B. The enrollment eligibility requirement of 20-A M.R.S. §12727(3) of meeting community college admissions standards may be suspended when the MCCS President reasonably determines that training goals can be advanced thereby; provided that the requirement to meet program admission standards is retained.

C. The training opportunity requirement of 20-A M.R.S. §12727(6) may be suspended when the MCCS President reasonably determines that such an opportunity for retraining is not available.

D. The partner contribution requirement of 20-A M.R.S. §12730(2)(A) may be suspended when the MCCS President reasonably determines that such contributions are not available.

E. The workforce needs identification requirement of 20-A M.R.S. §12730(2)(B) may be suspended when the MCCS President reasonably determines that a specific employment training has not yet been identified by the Center for Workforce Research and Information within the Department of Labor.

F. The hourly wage requirement of 20-A M.R.S. §12730(2)(D) may be suspended when the MCCS President reasonably determines that such wage placements are not available.

G. The selection criteria required by 20-A M.R.S. §12730(4) may be suspended when the MCCS Board of Trustees determines that such is in the best interest of achieving effective program outcomes.

II. EFFECTIVE DATE

This Order is effective March 27, 2020 and shall remain in effect until amended, rescinded or the State of Civil Emergency to Protect Public Health is terminated, whichever first occurs.

Janet T. Mills
Governor