

FUNCTIONS OF STATE & LOCAL WORKFORCE INNOVATION & OPPORTUNITY ACT BOARDS

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Under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) statute, state and local WIOA boards are required to perform several functions with regard to setting priorities for the public workforce system, governance, and allocating resources.

Here is a snapshot of the functions of state and local WIOA boards.

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WIOA STATE BOARD FUNCTIONS

The State board shall assist the Governor in:

- (1) the development, implementation, and modification of the State plan.
- (2) the review of statewide policies, of statewide programs, and of recommendations on actions that should be taken by the State to align workforce development programs to support a comprehensive and streamlined workforce development system.
- (3) the development and continuous improvement of the workforce development system in the State, including—
 - (A) the identification of barriers and means for removing barriers to better coordinate, align, and avoid duplication among the programs and activities carried out through the system;
 - (B) the development of strategies to support the use of career pathways for the purpose of providing individuals, **including low-skilled adults, youth, and individuals with barriers to employment** (including individuals with disabilities), with workforce investment activities, education, and supportive services to enter or retain employment;
 - (C) the development of strategies for providing effective outreach to and improved access for individuals and employers who could benefit from services provided through the workforce development system;
 - (D) the development and expansion of strategies for meeting the needs of employers, workers, and jobseekers, particularly through industry or sector partnerships related to in-demand industry sectors and occupations;
 - (E) the identification of regions, including planning Regions and the designation of local areas;
 - (F) the development and continuous

WIOA LOCAL BOARD FUNCTIONS

The functions of the local board shall include the following:

- (1) The local board, in partnership with the chief elected official for the local area involved, will develop and submit a local plan to the Governor.
- (2) In order to assist in the development and implementation of the local plan, the local board shall—
 - (A) carry out analyses of the economic conditions in the region, the needed knowledge and skills for the region, the workforce in the region, and workforce development activities (including education and training) in the region and regularly update such information;
 - (B) assist the Governor in developing the statewide workforce and labor market information system specifically in the collection, analysis, and utilization of workforce and labor market information for the region;
 - (C) conduct such other research, data collection, and analysis related to the workforce needs of the regional economy.
- (3) Convene local workforce development system stakeholders to assist in the development of the local plan and in identifying non-Federal expertise and resources to leverage support for workforce development activities.
- (4) The local board shall lead efforts to engage with a diverse range of employers and with entities in the region involved—
 - (A) to promote business representation on the local board;
 - (B) to develop effective linkages (including the use of intermediaries) with employers in the region to support employer utilization of the local workforce development system and to support local workforce investment activities;

improvement of the one-stop delivery system in local areas; and

- (G) the development of strategies to support staff training and awareness across programs supported under the workforce development system.

(4) the development and updating of comprehensive State performance accountability measures, including State adjusted levels of performance, to assess the effectiveness of the WIOA system.

(5) the identification and dissemination of information on best practices, including best practices for—

- (A) the effective operation of one-stop centers, relating to the use of business outreach, partnerships, and service delivery strategies, including **strategies for serving individuals with barriers to employment**;
- (B) the development of effective local boards, which may include information on factors that contribute to enabling local boards to exceed negotiated local levels of performance, sustain fiscal integrity, and achieve other measures of effectiveness; and
- (C) effective training programs that respond to real time labor market analysis, that effectively use direct assessment and prior learning assessment to measure an individual's prior knowledge, skills, competencies, and experiences, and that evaluate such skills, and competencies for adaptability, to support efficient placement into employment or career pathways.

(6) the development and review of statewide policies affecting the coordinated provision of services through the State's one-stop delivery system, including the development of—

- (A) objective criteria and procedures for use by local boards in assessing the effectiveness and continuous improvement of one-stop centers;
- (B) guidance for the allocation of one-stop center infrastructure funds; and

- (C) to ensure that workforce investment activities meet the needs of employers and support economic growth in the region, by enhancing communication, coordination, and collaboration among employers, economic development entities, and service providers;

- (D) to develop and implement proven or promising strategies for meeting the employment and skill needs of workers and employers (such as the establishment of industry and sector partnerships), that provide the skilled workforce needed by employers in the region, and that expand employment and career advancement opportunities for workforce development system participants in in demand industry sectors or occupations.

(5) The local board, with representatives of secondary and postsecondary education programs, shall lead efforts in the local area to develop and implement career pathways within the local area by aligning the employment, training, education, and supportive services that are needed by adults and youth, **particularly individuals with barriers to employment**.

(6) The local board shall identify and promote proven and promising strategies and initiatives for meeting the needs of employers, and workers and jobseekers (**including individuals with barriers to employment**) in the local workforce development system, including providing physical and programmatic accessibility for persons with disabilities to the one-stop delivery system and identifying and disseminating information on proven and promising practices carried out in other local areas for meeting such needs.

(7) The local board shall develop strategies for using technology to maximize the accessibility and effectiveness of the local workforce development system for employers, and workers and jobseekers, by—

- (A) facilitating connections among the intake and case management information systems of the one-stop partner programs;
- (B) facilitating access to services provided through the one-stop delivery system involved, including facilitating the access in remote areas;

- (C) policies relating to the appropriate roles and contributions of entities carrying out one-stop partner programs within the one-stop delivery system.

(7) the development of strategies for technological improvements to facilitate access to, and improve the quality of, services and activities provided through the one-stop delivery system.

(8) the development of strategies for aligning technology and data systems across one-stop partner programs to enhance service delivery and improve efficiencies in reporting on performance accountability measures.

(9) the development of allocation formulas for the distribution of funds for employment and training activities for adults, and youth workforce investment activities, to local areas.

(10) the preparation of the annual reports.

(11) the development of the statewide workforce and labor market information system.

(12) the development of such other policies to promote statewide objectives and enhance the workforce development system in the State.

- (C) identifying **strategies for better meeting the needs of individuals with barriers to employment**, including strategies that augment traditional service delivery, and increase access to services and programs of the one-stop delivery system, such as improving digital literacy skills; and
- (D) leveraging resources and capacity within the local workforce development system, **including resources and capacity for services for individuals with barriers to employment**.

(8) The local board, in partnership with the chief elected official for the local area, will conduct oversight for local youth workforce investment activities, local employment and training activities, and the one-stop delivery system in the local area.

(9) The local board, the chief elected official, and the Governor will negotiate and reach agreement on local performance accountability measures.

(10) The chief elected official for the local area will designate or certify one-stop operators and may terminate operators, identify eligible providers of training services in the local area, and will identify eligible providers of youth workforce investment activities. The local board will work with the State to ensure there are sufficient numbers and types of providers of career services and training services.

(11) The local board will coordinate activities with education and training providers in the local area, including providers of workforce investment activities, providers of adult education and literacy activities under title II, providers of career and technical education, and local agencies administering plans.

(12) The local board will develop a budget for the activities of the local board in the local area, consistent with the local plan and the duties of the local board under this section, subject to the approval of the chief elected official.

(13) The local board shall annually assess the physical and programmatic accessibility of the one-stop system for persons with disabilities.

Source:

Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014, 29 U.S.C § 3101 [Sec 101 (a-e) and 106 (d-f)]. (2014).

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