



OKLAHOMA OFFICE OF WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

OKLAHOMA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT ISSUANCE #07-2015

TO: Workforce Development Board Chairs
Workforce Development Board Staff
Workforce Development Fiscal Agents

FROM: Deidre D. Myers, Deputy Secretary for Workforce Development

DATE: July 1, 2015

SUBJECT: Process for identification of Workforce Planning Regions

PURPOSE: To provide guidance and process for the identification of Workforce Planning Regions in Oklahoma.

REFERENCES: Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, Section 106.

BACKGROUND:

The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) represents a renewed commitment to workforce development with an eye to the future through innovation and support for individual and national economic growth. It is aimed at increasing opportunities, particularly for those facing barriers to employment, and invests in the important connection between education and career preparation. It looks to the prosperity of workers and employers and focuses on the economic growth of communities, regions, and states to enhance our global competitiveness as a country.

In order for a state to receive Title I monies under WIOA and as part of the process for developing the state plan, a state shall identify regions consistent with:

- State labor market areas;
- Regional economic development areas; and,
- Whether the area will have sufficient federal/non-federal funds and appropriate education and training providers, including institutions of higher education and career and technical education schools to effectively administer activities for this law

Regions shall be comprised of:

- One local area that is aligned with the region
- Two or more local areas that are collectively aligned with the region



- Interstate areas contained within two or more states and consist of labor market areas, economic development areas, or other appropriate contiguous subareas of those states

The local boards and chief elected officials in each planning region shall be required to engage in a regional planning process for program year 16 that results in:

- Prepare a regional plan
- Establish regional service strategies
- Develop and implement sector strategies
- Collect and analyze regional labor market data
- Establish administrative cost arrangements
- Coordinate transportation and other supportive services
- Coordinate services with regional economic development services
- Establish an agreement concerning how the planning region will collectively negotiate and reach agreement on local levels of performance and report on performance accountability measures

ACTION:

The Oklahoma Office of Workforce Development shall present to the Governor geographic analysis based on the following data formula:

50% - Industry and Labor Force

- Regional ecosystems (driver and complementary)
- Economic infrastructure and assets
- In-demand occupations

20% - Workforce Demographics

- Commuting patterns and labor sheds
- Population trends
- Socio-cultural similarities, including Native American tribal boundaries

30% - Training & Service Needs

- Educational attainment levels and gaps
- Participation and career readiness
- Other labor market information

The Governor’s office shall identify planning regions within Oklahoma to submit to the U.S. Department of Labor in accordance with Section 106 of WIOA.

Guidance for the framework of the regional plan will be issued in the near future from the Oklahoma Office of Workforce Development.

INQUIRIES: If you have any questions or concerns regarding this issuance, please contact Jeane Burruss, Oklahoma Office of Workforce Development, at jeane.burruss@osuokc.edu. This policy is available at <http://oklahomaworks.gov/policy-center>.