



INNOVATE

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

**October 10,
2017
10:00 a.m.**

Crowne Plaza Hotel
201 S. Shackleford Road
Little Rock, Arkansas

Arkansas Workforce Development Board

Strategic Planning Committee



AGENDA

October 10, 2017

ARKANSAS WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING

10:00 A.M.

Call to Order..... Scott Bull, Acting Committee Chair

Chairman’s Comments..... Scott Bull, Acting Committee Chair

ACTION Item 1:

Approval of Minutes of July 11, 2017 Meeting

ACTION Item 2:

WIOA Title I-B Policy Updates..... Dr. Claudia Griffin, Project Coordinator
Arkansas Department of Workforce Services

ACTION Item 3:

Long-Term Unemployed Definition..... Dr. Claudia Griffin, Project Coordinator
Arkansas Department of Workforce Services

ACTION Item 4:

Proposed Allocation Methodology for Assistance to Areas with
High Concentrations of Eligible Youth..... Kris Jones, Employment Assistance Assistant Director
Arkansas Department of Workforce Services

Committee Action Plan Update..... Arnell Willis, Workforce Investment Director
Arkansas Department of Workforce Services

Announcements

Adjournment

12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. Lunch

1:00 p.m. Full Board Meeting

Crowne Plaza Little Rock
201 South Shackleford
Little Rock, Arkansas



NEXT MEETING DATES

| | | | |
|-----------------|------------|--------------------|-----|
| January 9, 2018 | 10:00 a.m. | Committees | TBD |
| | 1:00 p.m. | Full Board Meeting | TBD |
| April 10, 2018 | 10:00 a.m. | Committees | TBD |
| | 1:00 p.m. | Full Board Meeting | TBD |

Crowne Plaza Little Rock
201 South Shackleford
Little Rock, Arkansas



**For Consideration of the
Arkansas Workforce Development Board
Strategic Planning Committee**

October 10, 2017

AGENDA ITEM 1 – ACTION: Minutes of the July 11, 2017 Strategic Planning Committee Meeting.

RECOMMENDATION: It is recommended that the Strategic Planning Committee approve the minutes of the July 11, 2017 meeting.

INFORMATION/RATIONALE: Minutes of the meetings are attached.

UNOFFICIAL

MINUTES

ARKANSAS WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

Strategic Planning Committee

July 11, 2017

A meeting of the Arkansas Workforce Development Board Strategic Planning Committee was held on July 11, 2017, at Crowne Plaza Hotel, 201 South Shackleford Road, in Little Rock, Arkansas. Chair Charlie Clark presided with the following members present: Ms. Karen Breashears, Mr. Chad Bishop, Dr. Charisse Childers, Ms. Katy Morris, Mr. Mike Preston by proxy Ms. Becky Rheinhardt, and Dr. Julie Roberson. Ms. Melissa Hanesworth, Mr. Michael Newcity, Mayor Harold Perrin, Mr. Jeffery Allen, and Mr. Robert East were unable to attend.

Chair Clark recognized that a quorum was not present and called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m. Chair Clark reported Mr. Brian Itzkowitz has resigned his position at Goodwill Industries of Arkansas and is no longer a member of the State Board or chair of the Strategic Planning Committee. As Chair of the State Workforce Development Board, Mr. Clark presided as committee chair. He expressed appreciation for Mr. Itzkowitz's contributions to the Committee and State Board.

Staff Report: Chair Clark recognized Mr. Arnell Willis, Workforce Investment Director, Arkansas Department of Workforce Services, to provide the staff report. Mr. Willis reported that the Strategic Planning Committee reviewed the Local Plans and Certification of the One-Stop Operator process during the last quarter. A full report will be presented to the full board during the afternoon session.

Agenda Item 1 – ACTION – Minutes of the January 10, 2017 and April 11, 2017

Meetings: Recognizing the presence of a quorum, Chair Clark proceeded to Agenda Item 1, asking if there were any additions or corrections to the January or April minutes. The minutes were approved as presented on **a motion by Ms. Karen Breashears, seconded by Becky Rheinhardt, and carried unanimously.**

Update on WIOA Title I-B Policy Manual: Chair Clark indicated that the Arkansas Department of Workforce Services and the ten local workforce board directors established a workgroup to develop a statewide policy manual for use by case managers providing services under WIOA Title I-B, which is the adult, dislocated worker, and youth programs. He stated that the U.S. Department of Labor issued new implementation guidance in March which changed some of the policies developed by the workgroup. Chair Clark requested that Dr. Claudia Griffin, Project Coordinator, Arkansas Department of Workforce Services, discuss the policy development and present the final policy manual to the committee. Dr. Griffin reported that the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL)

is expected to release a corrective Training and Employment Guidance Letter (TEGL) to rescind one that was released with an error earlier. She recognized the following individuals who served as the review committee of the WIOA Title I-B Workgroup: Cindy Varner, Carman Hensley, Carolyn Talley, David Barch, Debbie Heckman, Deborah Senter, Donna Carney, Elroy Willoughby, LaJoy Montgomery, Margaret Dearmon, Mary Wilson, Sandy Monaco, Shenaye Johns, and Stephanie Blair.

Dr. Griffin provided an overview of various sections of the policy manual and indicated that efforts were made to match the document to existing State and Federal policies and guidelines; however, if conflicts are identified, State and Federal laws, Federal regulations, and Federal technical guidance take precedence over the information contained in the manual. For example, needs-related payments can be made to individuals in Registered Apprenticeships; but not to individuals who are employed. Individuals who are in Registered Apprenticeships are considered employed. The recommendation of the review committee is not to award funds to Registered Apprenticeships until a definition resolving the conflict is received from DOL. Dr. Griffin stated that definitions are a major part of the policy and called attention to the Definitions section, Page 10 under "Attachment to the workforce." Arkansas defines "attachment to the workforce" as an individual who earns income one day in the last year, which is reflected in the policy as "having wages in one (1) quarter during the last year immediately prior to eligibility determination." Under "Basic skills deficient" on page 11, the committee retained the criterion of the local areas' scoring to mean at or below Grade Level 8.9. Under Co-Enrollment and Co-Funding on page 79, Dr. Griffin indicated that individuals who meet the respective program and service eligibility requirements may participate in adult, dislocated worker and/or youth programs concurrently, as stressed by DOL. Concerning "Confidentiality" on page 142, the Arkansas Department of Workforce Services' confidentiality policy will be used, but not imposed on the local areas.

Several non-substantive corrections were suggested by members of the Strategic Planning Committee. Dr. Griffin stated that DOL may require substantive corrections in six months and the Review Committee will provide training in August to frontline staff. Following brief discussion, Dr. Griffin completed her presentation.

Members of the Strategic Planning Committee commended the WIOA Title I-B Workgroup for developing an impressive and precise document.

A motion to recommend approval of the Draft WIOA Title I-B Policy Handbook as written, allowing for appropriate non-substantial changes and corrections as necessary by the committee, was approved on **a motion by Dr. Charisse Childers, seconded by Ms. Karen Breashears, and carried unanimously.**

Review of Veteran’s State-Plan-Related Changes: Chair Clark announced that Mr. Roy Schultz, Director of U.S. Department of Labor – Veterans’ Employment Training Services – Arkansas Office, will present to the full board later in the afternoon.

Committee Action Plan Update: Chair Clark called on Mr. Arnell Willis, Arkansas Department of Workforce Services – Director of Workforce Investment Development, to provide an update on the committee action plan. Mr. Willis indicated that the Strategic Planning Committee Action Plan handout, included in the official meeting file, outlines the committee’s responsibilities and provides staff updates on the committee’s progress over the last quarter toward meeting the responsibilities assigned to the Strategic Planning Committee. He stated that (1) The ten (10) Local Workforce Development Plans have been reviewed on two occasions and comments have been provided by the WIOA Local Plan Review Committee. All Local Plans were reviewed to ensure alignment with the State Plan; (2) The WIOA Statewide Policy Committee has completed its development and review of WIOA Policies which were presented today; (3) A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) template has been developed for us by the ten (10) Local Areas. The federal deadline for the signed MOU’s to be in place was July 1, 2017. DOL extended the deadline for the Infrastructure Funding Agreements (IFAs) to January 1, 2018. ADWS is currently reviewing the Wisconsin IFA software program for possible use in Arkansas.

Announcements: Chair Clark announced that the full board will convene at 1:00 p.m. today. The next meeting of the Strategic Planning Committee will be held on October 10, 2017, at 10:00 a.m. with the Full Board meeting at 1:00 p.m. Staff will determine and announce the location at a later date.

Adjourn: Chair Clark adjourned the meeting at 11:06 a.m., **a motion by Ms. Katy Morris, seconded by Ms. Becky Rheinhardt, and carried unanimously.**

Mr. Charlie Clark, Chairman

Arnell Willis, Director Workforce Investment
Department of Workforce Services

*Minutes recorded by Darlister Mitchell
Department of Workforce Services Staff*

**For Consideration of the
Arkansas Workforce Development Board
Strategic Planning Committee**

October 10, 2017

ACTION ITEM 2 – ACTION: Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act (WIOA) Title IB Policy Updates

RECOMMENDATION: It is recommended that the Arkansas Workforce Development Board approve the revisions to the Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act (WIOA) Title IB Policy Manual for distribution to local offices.

INFORMATION/RATIONALE: The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) was signed into law on July 22, 2014. The passage of WIOA provides new authorizing legislation for programs previously authorized under the Workforce Investment Act (WIA). The WIOA is landmark legislation designed to strengthen and improve our nation’s public workforce system and help put Americans back to work. The WIOA presents an extraordinary opportunity to improve job and career options for our nation’s workers and jobseekers through an integrated, job-driven public workforce system that links diverse talent to businesses through continuous improvement supported through evaluation, accountability, identification of best practices, and data-driven decision- making.

At its July 11, 2017 meeting, the State Board approved the WIOA Title IB Policy Manual. Since this approval, ADWS has found it necessary to make some revisions, provide some additional clarifications, and other non-material changes to the policies.

A summary of the changes are listed below.

WIOA Title I-B Policy Manual Changes

Policy 1.3 (Acceptable Documentation)

- Modified to match changes in Form 2.4 (Dislocated Worker Eligibility Determination)

Policy 2.1 (Common Eligibility Requirements)

- Properly formatted 2 citations on page 2.

FORM 2.1 (Common Eligibility Determination)

- Removed statement about recording SSN in AJL.

Policy 2.4 (Eligibility for Dislocated Worker Program), page 2

- No policy change. Changed wording to make it clear that meeting the Special rule for service members (Special Veteran's Criterion) qualifies as meeting all three numbered conditions in Category A.

FORM 2.4 (Dislocated Worker Eligibility Determination)

- Category A - Changed the Documentation to match what was mentioned in training and to clarify exactly what is being documented, changed some incorrect punctuation, and added a place to name the documentation used to verify that the person was a separating veteran. Employment status: changed some incorrect punctuation in the "Unemployed" category.

Policy 2.6 Eligibility for Out-of-School Youth, page 3

- Correction to the lettering sequence

Policy 2.7 (Co-Enrollment and Co-funding)

- Properly formatted pages.
- Added "WIOA Title I-D Dislocated Worker Grants and other Discretionary Grants" to the list of potential entities with which an area can co-enroll or co-fund.
- Added "Other Arkansas Job Center partners, as appropriate".

FORM 3.1 (Individual Employment Plan)

- Added "Begin Date" and "Expected End Date" to Training section.

Policy 3.1 (Services for Adults and Dislocated Workers)

- Changed "will" to "may" on page 7 to reflect the wording in TEGL 19-16 concerning TAA funding for training.

Policy 3.2 (Services for Youth)

- Corrected typo on page 10

Policy 3.8 (Work Experience)

- Added requirement that local areas have a Work Experience Policy.

**For Consideration of the
Arkansas Workforce Development Board
Strategic Planning Committee**

October 10, 2017

ACTION ITEM 3 – ACTION: Long-Term Unemployed Definition

RECOMMENDATION: It is recommended that the Arkansas Workforce Development Board approve the proposed definition of “Long-Term Unemployed” for WIOA Title I-D.

INFORMATION/RATIONALE: The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) allows states to define the term “long-term unemployed” workers for the purposes of Disaster Dislocated Worker Grants (DWGs). We recommend the adoption of the attached definition for this purpose.

Policy Number: _____ Effective Date: _____

Disaster Recovery Dislocated Worker Grant Long-term Unemployment Definition

Purpose:

The purpose of this policy is to establish the Arkansas State definition of the term “long-term unemployed individual” for the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014 (WIOA) Title I-D Disaster Recovery Dislocated Worker Grants (DLWs), as described in WIOA § 170, TEGL 2-15, and 20 CFR 687.

Reference:

WIOA § 170(d)(2)
20 CFR 687.100 & 687.170(b)
TEGL 2-15

Definition:

For the purposes of eligibility for the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Title I-D Disaster Recovery Dislocated Worker Grants (DWGs), as described in WIOA § 170(d)(2)(B), 20 CFR 687.170(b)(ii), and TEGL 2-15, the following definition applies:

Long-term unemployed individuals: Individuals, who at the time of eligibility determination, have been:

- unemployed for at least 13 weeks, in aggregate, during the past 26 weeks, or
- not in the labor force for at least 13 weeks, in aggregate, during the past 26 weeks.

Note that there is no previous work history requirement for this definition.

Expiration: Ongoing

**For Consideration of the
Arkansas Workforce Development Board
Strategic Planning Committee**

October 10, 2017

ACTION ITEM 4 – ACTION: Proposed Allocation Methodology for Assistance to Areas with High Concentrations of Eligible Youth

RECOMMENDATION: It is recommended that the Arkansas Workforce Development Board approve the methodology used to identify areas of high concentrations of eligible youth and to make allocations based on the area’s proportion of those youth.

INFORMATION/RATIONALE: Under Section 129(b)(F) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, statewide funds are required to be used to provide additional assistance to local areas that have high concentrations of eligible youth.

The recommended allocation methodology below will both define which areas are considered “high concentration” and provide a method for allocating funds budgeted for this activity to those areas based on their respective percentage of estimated eligible youth.

REVISED 10/06/2017

PROPOSED METHODOLOGY TO DEFINE WIOA HIGH CONCENTRATION OF ELIGIBLE YOUTH

A proposal to define the term "High Concentration of Eligible Youth" must be based on certain characteristics listed in the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA). The definition for the term "Eligible Youth" can be found in the WIOA law, Title 1B, Section 3(27) and 3(46). These terms are described in Section 129(a)(1)(B) and (C).

This definition references states' eligible youth are not younger than 14 or older than 24 years of age and who have one or more of the following risk factors:

- (i) Deficient in basic literacy skills;
- (ii) A school dropout;
- (iii) English language learners;
- (iv) An offender;
- (v) Homeless, a runaway, or foster child;
- (vi) Pregnant, or a parent;
- (vii) An individual who requires additional assistance to complete an educational program, or secure and hold employment; and
- (viii) Low-Income.

These categories can be further broken down into specialized risks. We have data sources to count:

- 1) Population Age 10-24
U.S. Census Bureau, American Fact Finder, 2011-2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, <https://factfinder.census.gov>
- 2) Dropouts-School Age
Arkansas Department of Education, Dropouts and Withdrawals by Reason, 2015-2016, <https://adedata.arkansas.gov>
- 3) English Language Learners- School Age
Arkansas Department of Education, English Language Learners SY 2015-2016, <https://adedata.arkansas.gov>
- 4) Juvenile Offenders
Arkansas Crime Information Center, Arrest by Contributor: 2016, <http://www.acic.org>
- 5) Homeless- School Age
Arkansas Department of Education, Homeless by County: 2015-2016, <https://adedata.arkansas.gov>
- 6) Foster Care- Age 12 and Over
Department of Human Services, The Division of Children and Family Services, Children in Foster Care by Age, SFY 2015, <http://humanservices.arkansas.gov>

- 7) Births- Women Under Age 20
Arkansas Department of Health, Current Birth Data: 2013,
<http://www.healthy.arkansas.gov>
- 8) Special Education – School Age
Arkansas Department of Education, Special Education District Profile: 2015/16, Child
Count, <http://www.arkansased.gov>
- 9) Poverty – Age 5-17 in Families
U.S. Census, 2015 Poverty and Median Household Income Estimates,
<https://www.census.gov>

It is the Department of Workforce Services' intent to categorize and prioritize risk factors that can be documented with reliable data from the following: 2010 Census; Arkansas Department of Education; Arkansas Department of Human Services; Arkansas Crime Information Center; and the Arkansas Department of Health. Here is our specific strategy for computation of priority:

1. Count the individuals for each county in each of the categories we have available data.
2. Group the State's 75 counties into Local Workforce Development Areas (LWDA), and add the total number for each county in the LWDA to determine the total number in each LWDA. There will be individuals counted more than once because they fit more than one category, but that will serve to weight more heavily areas that have more individuals with multiple eligibility factors. (In all category calculations for the City of Little Rock LWDA and Central LWDA, a percentage of Pulaski County totals are used.) (Percentage used for the City of Little Rock LWDA is City of Little Population divided by Total Pulaski County Population)
3. Divide the LWDA's weighted number of "Eligible Youth" by the LWDA's total population to determine what weighted percentage of the LWDA's total population consists of Eligible Youth.
4. We propose any area that has a weighted percentage of Eligible Youth, as compared to its overall population, that is equal to or greater than ***28%** will be deemed as having a "High Concentration of Eligible Youth" for purposes of the funding formula.
5. Thus each LWDA that has a weighted percentage of Eligible Youth equal to ***28%** or more will share in the funds. This is based on a formula of Total Eligible Youth divided by the total dollars available, and then uses that multiplier to determine each districts amount to be awarded. (See totals page for amount to be awarded).

Strategic Planning Committee Action Plan



Board Mission: To promote and support a talent development system in Arkansas that offers employers, individuals, and communities the opportunity to achieve and sustain economic prosperity.

| | GOALS | STRATEGIES/INITIATIVES | BENCHMARKS | STATUS |
|--|--|------------------------------------|---|---|
| Board Vision: Arkansas will have a world-class workforce that is well educated, skilled, and working in order to keep Arkansas's economy competitive in the global marketplace. | Board Bylaws: Develop the State Plan. | 1.1 Develop the state plan. | 1.1 Submit the PY 2016 – PY 2019 state plan to the federal agencies on April 1, 2016. | 1.1 The PY 2016 – PY 2019 state plan was submitted to the federal government for review and approval on April 1, 2016. Comments from the federal agencies were received and edits made to the plan during the months of April and May 2016. Federal approval of the plan was received on June 27, 2016 with the requirement of five additional edits to be made by September 1, 2016. The additional edits were submitted via the state plan portal on September 1, 2016. |
| | | 1.2 Implement the state plan plan. | 1.2 Implement the state plan during July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2020. | The state plan became effective on July 1, 2016. |
| | | 1.3 Modify the state plan. | 1.3 Modify the state plan every two years. Next modification due by June 30, 2018. | |

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| | <p>Board Bylaws: Review of Statewide Policies</p> | <p>1.1 Review statewide policies, of statewide programs, and recommend actions that should be taken by the state to align workforce development programs in a manner that supports a comprehensive and streamlined workforce development system in the state.</p> | <p>1.1 Review statewide policies as they are needed and developed.</p> | <p>1.1 The SPC committee has reviewed and approved the following statewide policies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ CEO Roles and Responsibilities ▪ Certification of Local Workforce Development Boards <p>The WIOA Roundtable Policy Committee continues to meet and review policies for consideration by the SPC committee. The next meetings of the scheduled for 10/17/2016, 11/14/2016, and 12/2/2016. Committee members are reviewing the WIOA regulations to determine a comprehensive list of policies that are needed for WIOA implementation. An immediate priority will be the revision of the Arkansas Workforce Center Certification Policy.</p> <p>October 2017 update- Following the implementation of the Title I policies, several edits and clarifications will be reviewed by the State Workforce</p> |

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| | | | | Development Board at the October 10, 2017 meeting. |
| | | 1.2 Guidance for the allocation of one-stop center infrastructure funds to include the appropriate roles and contributions of entities carrying out one-stop partner programs with the workforce center system. | 1.2 Must be developed and implemented no later than June 30, 2017. | 1.2 The WIOA Roundtable Finance Committee has met to discuss the current funding of workforce centers and existing costs. The Finance Committee recommends maintaining the MOU and Resource Sharing Agreement process for identifying direct and shared costs. This information has been shared with the WIOA Roundtable Policy Committee in their work to make recommendations regarding workforce center certification. Committee members are reviewing the WIOA regulations to determine if revisions are needed to their recommendation. October 2017 update- Training and updates were provided at the Partner's Meeting on September 29 th that introduced the Wisconsin Database, additionally MOU signatures were obtained from required |

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| | | | | partners for all 10 local areas in the meeting. |
| | Board Bylaws: Continuous Improvement of the State's Workforce System | 1.1. Identify barriers and means for removing barriers to better coordinate, align, and avoid duplication among the programs and activities carried out through the system. | | 1.1 A meeting of 250 partners from the core and non-core partner programs was held on September 29-30, 2016 to share information on the WIOA regulations. One topic of discussion at the meeting was the coordination of services to Arkansas youth, including out-of-school youth and youth with disabilities. Attendees were sent home with a set of discussion topics that are to be discussed at the next local partners meeting in each area. Local board directors will be expected to report back the outcomes. |
| | | 1.2 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 | 1.1 Sector Strategies guidance draft will be provided for consideration by the SPC committee at the January 2017 meeting. | 1.1 A meeting of 250 partners from the core and non-core partner programs was held on September 29-30, 2016 to share information on the WIOA regulations. One topic of discussion at the meeting was the use of career pathways for preparing individuals for life-long learning. The WIOA |

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| | | workforce investment activities, education, and supportive services to enter or retain employment; | | Roundtable Sector Strategies Committee is working on developing guidance for consideration by the SPC committee for use by local boards in implementing sector strategies, which will ultimately lead to the identification of career pathways within those sectors. |
| | | 1.3 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; | | 1.3 The ADWS hosted five community awareness events in September and October as an initial step towards identifying best practices for outreach to employers and jobseekers. Events were held in September and early October in Camden (9/14), Fort Smith (9/21), and Magnolia (10/5). Two more events will be held in Fayetteville (10/13) and West Memphis (10/18). At the three events already held, over 173 employers either attended or requested additional information. 160 new jobseekers attended the open houses. The AWDB Chair has created an ad hoc committee to develop outreach strategies. The |

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| | | <p>1.4 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;</p> | | <p>committee will begin meeting in November.</p> <p>1.5 A survey was conducted of the members of the WIOA Roundtable Sector Strategies Committee and the local workforce development board directors to determine the readiness to implement sector strategies in Arkansas. The WIOA Roundtable Sector Strategies Committee met jointly with local board directors on July 7, 2016 to hear from USDOL contractor Maher and Maher regarding the outcomes of the survey and determine a direction for the committee and guidance needed. Additional training was provided on October 6, 2016 to the local workforce board directors regarding making decisions regarding sector strategies based on labor market data specific to their area.</p> |

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| | | | | October 2017 update- Using funding provided under the Arkansas Sector Partnership grant, sector coaches were assigned to each of the 10 local areas to develop sector strategy plans. The report has been finalized this quarter and will be distributed to locals for further development. |
| | | 1.6 The identification of regions, including planning regions, after consultation with local boards and chief elected officials; | Complete | Complete – Regions established at December 16, 2015 SPC Committee Meeting |
| | Board Bylaws: Develop strategies to support staff training and awareness across programs supported under the workforce development system. | 1.1 Increase opportunities for sharing of information between partner programs. 1.2 Develop a strategy for staff training across programs. | | A meeting of WIOA core and non-core partners was held on September 29-30. This meeting is held twice per year and contains time on each agenda to “get to know your partners” better. At this meeting, information was presented on programs available to assist low-income families, including TANF, SNAP Employment & Training program, and the Arkansas Career Pathways Initiative. The next meeting will be in March 2017. Local board |

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| | | | | <p>directors have been informed that local partner meetings are expected.</p> <p>October 2017 update- 250 partners met during the WIOA Partners Meeting on September 28th and 29th. Topics discussed included WIOA Title I and GED (Adult Education) policies, Eligible Training Provider Lists, Infrastructure Funding, and best practices for business outreach and out of school youth outreach.</p> |
| | <p>Board Bylaws: Develop strategies for technological improvements to facilitate access to, and improve the quality of, services and activities provided through the workforce center system.</p> | 1.1 Enhance digital literacy skills. | | |
| 1.2 Accelerate the acquisition of skills and recognized postsecondary credentials by participants. | | | | |
| 1.3 Strengthen the professional development of providers and workforce professionals. | | | | |
| 1.3 Ensure such technology is accessible to individuals with disabilities and individuals residing in remote areas. | | | | |

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| | Board Bylaws: 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. | 1.1 Review annually the funding distribution policy for WIOA Title I. | No later than the first full board meeting of each year. | |
| | | 1.2 Seek input from chief elected officials regarding the formula. | No later than December 31 of each year. | |
| | Strategic Goal: Develop an efficient partnership with employers, the educational system, workforce development partners, and community-based organizations to deliver a platform that will prepare a skilled workforce for existing and new employers. | 1.1 Expand employer partnerships through the support of industry engagement. | | |
| | | 1.2 Expand partnership with economic development to refine sector strategies. | | |
| | | 1.3 Increase the utilization of Registered Apprenticeship programs as viable talent development opportunities. | | 1.3 The Arkansas Apprenticeship Coalition is a partner in all discretionary grants and all Registered Apprenticeship providers that wish to be have been included as eligible training providers on the Eligible Training Provider List. |
| | | 1.4 Increase connections with employers and Vocational Rehabilitation agencies to provide support and employment | | 1.4 VR is a core partner for implementation of WIOA and is represented on the WIOA Roundtable and all local partner groups. The WIOA |

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| | | for youth and adults with disabilities. | | Roundtable has established a Transition Committee that specifically looks at strategies for serving youth with disabilities. Furthermore, the Arkansas Rehabilitation Services, Department of Workforce Services, and the local workforce development boards are partners in the PROMISE grant, which assists disabled youth receiving SSI and offers a paid employment work experience. |
| | | 1.5 Partner with K-12 education, higher education, career and technical education, and adult education to provide consistent rules and eliminate barriers to implementing training programs around the State. | | The WIOA Roundtable Policy Committee has representation from the core programs, which includes adult education, and also Career and Technical Education. The purpose for the committee is to provide consistent rules and eliminate barriers to services. |
| | | 1.6 Expand small business participation. | | |
| | Strategic Goal: Enhance service delivery to employers and jobseekers. | 1.1 Develop a common intake process for jobseekers and businesses that will efficiently connect them with services available | | 1.1 On September 29, 2016, ADWS was awarded a \$1.1 million grant to assist in developing a system or enhancing existing systems, which will integrate data and |

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| | | from all workforce development partner programs and identify any barriers to employment that need to be addressed. | | provide for common intake of customers. Furthermore, one of the policies under development by the WIOA Roundtable Policy Committee is an across-program policy for engaging employers. |
| | | 1.2 Promote training that leads to industry recognized credentials and certification. | | |
| | | 1.3 Support transportable skill sets for transportable careers. | | |

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| | | 1.4 Support career pathways development and sector strategy initiatives as a way to meet business and industry needs. | | |
| | | 1.5 Expand service delivery access points by the use of virtual services. | | |
| | | 1.6 Develop a common business outreach strategy with a common message that will be utilized by all workforce system partners. | | 1.6 One of the policies under development by the WIOA Roundtable Policy Committee is an across-program policy for engaging employers. |
| | Strategic Goal: Address Skills Gaps | 1.1 Conduct a statewide skills and asset analysis to determine the skills gap present and resources available to solve the skills issue. | | |
| | | 1.2 Develop and implement an action plan to close the basic core, technical, and soft skills gaps in Arkansas. | | |
| | | | | |