

Illinois Workforce Innovation Board

Bruce Rauner, Governor

John Rico, Co-Chair Sean McCarthy, Co-Chair

Action Item on Approval of Changes to the Title IB WIOA Policy Letter on Minimum Training Expenditure Requirements

December 6, 2016

Background Information

In 2006, the Illinois Workforce Innovation Board (IWIB) issued recommendations for the development of policy guidance to implement a minimum expenditure level imposed on Title IB Adult and Dislocated Worker funds. The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) was signed into law in July 2014 and was enacted on July 1, 2016. One of the key provisions WIOA is that the system should be focused on providing job seekers with the training and education they need to prepare them for demand occupations in key sectors.

Illinois has approved and submitted to the United States Departments of Labor and Education a Unified State Plan that focuses on economic growth, job creation, and the need to develop a skilled workforce that meets the needs of employers. In 2016, the IWIB approved a Workgroup to review and make recommendations for necessary changes to the minimum training expenditure requirements that strengthens the goals of WIOA and the State Plan.

This Workgroup has recommended a two-phase approach to updating the policy. First, the recommendations address revisions to the list of allowable training and education services that can be considered for inclusion in the annual formula. These "calculable" expenditures reflect the WIOA emphasis on work based training models and providing the assistance participants need to succeed in their training and education goals. These recommendations also incorporate a previous IWIB approved change of the formula from independent calculations for the Adult and Dislocated Worker Programs to a combined formula.

The Workgroup identified the need to have a detailed analysis of all expenditures of the Title IB Adult and Dislocated Worker programs to determine how each budgeted expenditure affects the ability of local workforce boards to meet its goals as outlined in Illinois' Unified State Plan and in Regional and Local Plans. This analysis is being conducted at the request of the IWIB Executive Committee and approved by the IWIB at their September 2016 meeting. Upon completion, Phase 2 recommendations will be made to further revise the policy, including the possibility that other expenditures may be included in the formula, the minimum expenditure level may be adjusted, and incentives and sanctions may be revised.

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Action Required

<u>Action Item on Approval of Policy Changes on Minimum Training Expenditure Requirements</u> The Illinois Workforce Innovation Board approves the recommended changes to the WIOA Policy that provides guidance on the minimum training expenditure requirements for the Title IB Adult and Dislocated Worker funding streams. These changes provide updates to the types of training and educational services, as well as other allowable expenditures that can be considered as calculable. These changes come with the understanding an analysis of the overall expenditures of the local workforce boards and areas is being conducted with recommendations to be presented within the next 6-9 months. Upon those recommendations, this policy will be reviewed further for incorporation of recommendations.