



OVERVIEW

Significant planning efforts culminated last month with the submittal of the initial Unified State Plan for Illinois, laying the foundation for implementation activities from Program Years (PY) 2016 through 2020 (State Fiscal Years 2017 through 2021). As implementation activities continue during this initial program year, some adjustments to timelines and effective dates of other major activities also were made to aid planning and negotiations between local required partners. A summary of the significant activities and information about the adjustment follows:

Unified State Plan

- On March 21, 2016, the Illinois Workforce Innovation Board Executive Committee approved the final version of the Unified State Plan. The core partners submitted the plan on March 30, 2016 to the U.S. Departments of Labor and Education (two days prior to the April 1 submission date). The Unified State Plan, including all attachments and appendices can be found here: [Unified State Plan](#). The submitted Unified State Plan is effective through PY 2020 (FY 2021). Plan modifications are due by April 2018 to reflect changes in Illinois' labor market, economic conditions, or any other necessary changes affecting the implementation of the initial plan.

Governor's Guidelines

- Since the initial Governor's Guidelines were issued in December 2015, the U.S. Departments of Labor and Education delayed until July 1, 2017 the effective date for infrastructure cost requirements related to local MOUs for comprehensive one-stop centers. Therefore, the [Governor's Guidelines – Supplemental Guidance for PY16](#) was issued to provide an alternative timeline for MOU negotiations and additional guidance **for PY 2016 (State FY 2017) only**. Page 3 of *Illinois Works Together* provides an alternative timeline for PY 2016 (State FY 2017). Timelines remain as stated in the Governor's Guidelines for PY 2017 and after.
- Additionally, the Governor's Guidelines were reissued in March with the following revisions: providing a new, required MOU template and a template for the local service matrix to be submitted with the MOU; providing clarification of in-kind contributions towards shared costs; and other technical revisions. The updated document can be found here: [Governor's Guidelines – Revision 1 – March 2016](#).

Online Resources for WIOA Implementation

MOU Negotiator List:

State-level partners have identified individuals who are negotiating local MOUs on behalf of required partners in each local workforce innovation area (LWIA). A master list of the MOU negotiators with contact information as available is posted on the WIOA Implementation Portal and occasionally updated here: <https://www2.illinoisworknet.com/WIOA/Outreach/Pages/Public-Documents.aspx>

Additional resources:

The following resources are available to the public and are regularly updated:

- [Regional Planning Materials](#)
- [Governor's Guidelines](#) for negotiating services and shared costs
- [Documents & Updates](#), including past WIOA Wednesday Webinars and past issues of Illinois Works Together
- [Videos and Training Materials](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- [WIOA Implementation Calendar of meetings and activities](#)

REGIONAL AND LOCAL PLANS

MOU FAQ Process

In late February the IWIB and the Inter-Agency Team held a two-day statewide regional planning technical assistance summit. Nearly 300 people representing the planning teams from the ten economic development regions gathered in Springfield. The goal of the summit was to reinforce the unified message from the WIOA core partners, engage in structured peer networking as well as provide an update on their planning efforts. In addition, regional planning teams attended breakout sessions covering practical planning topics such as employer-led sector-based partnerships, business engagement and using labor market information to be data and demand driven.



These breakout sessions gave the teams the opportunity to interact with business leaders from across the state to hear first-hand how to go about developing sustainable public-private partnerships. Attendees also could ask questions of all the public program leaders and each other to share best practices and lessons learned from each region. The event also had a dedicated “Data Room” where experts in labor market information were available to help teams interpret the meaning of the economic and labor market data in their region.

The IWIB and Interagency Team have committed to on-going technical assistance efforts such as this to foster relationships between business and partners at all levels of the state.

The negotiation of local MOUs may be new to many and can be very complex. Questions, issues and concerns are bound to arise as you engage with local WIOA partners. As they do, we want to hear your questions. Questions should be submitted to your authorizing agency.

Not only will you receive a response to your questions, but the specific questions, issues and concerns you raise will be combined with those coming from other local partners. Collectively, this information will give the WIOA Interagency Work Group a good idea of areas in which additional guidance or decision making at a state level is required.

MOU FAQs and responses will be posted on the WIOA Implementation portal at the following link:

<https://www2.illinoisworknet.com/WIOA/Outreach/Pages/Advisory-Group-FAQ.aspx>

Timeline for Program Year 2016 Only (State Fiscal Year 2017)

TIMEFRAME	Activity
April 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> April 15 – Regional and Local components to the Initial Plan are finalized
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> April 30 – Local boards submit draft budgets to Mike Baker (wioaplans-mous@illinoisworknet.com)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MOU negotiations continue
May 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> May 1 – Initial Plan (Regional and Local components) posted for 30-day public comment period
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> May 31 – MOU negotiation period ends with required outcome reports due (Appendix 9 Governor's Guidelines – Revised March 2016) to Mike Baker (wioaplans-mous@illinoisworknet.com)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> May 31 – Public comment period for the Initial Plan (Regional and Local components) ends
June 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> June 1 – For local areas unable to reach agreement on MOUs, 45-day remediation period begins
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> June 15 – Regional teams update the Initial Plan (Regional and Local components) based on public comments received
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> June 30 – Initial Plan (Regional and Local components) finalized and approved by Local Boards and submitted to Mike Baker (wioaplans-mous@illinoisworknet.com)
July 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> July 15 – For local areas unable to reach agreement on MOUs, a 45-day remediation period ends; the reasons for the local impasse are referred to the U.S. Secretary of Labor and head of any other relevant Federal agency

WIOA Wednesday Webinars

The Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity continues to conduct regular informational and interactive webinars entitled “WIOA Wednesday Webinars”. The webinars are open to anyone and can be accessed through the following:

Webinar URL:

<http://siuccwd.adobeconnect.com/wioaworks/>

Audio Options:

- Use computer speakers, with chat and/or computer microphone.
- Call 866-821-1611 (no passcode required)

Webinar archives:

All webinars are recorded and available on the WIOA Implementation Portal: <https://www2.illinoisworknet.com/WIOA/Outreach/Pages/WIOA-Implementation.aspx>

To receive email notices about upcoming webinars:

Enter your name, affiliation and email address to Kristi Jones at KEB: kristij@kebcpa.com