



### OVERVIEW

Since the last issue of *Illinois Works Together* newsletter, State-level partners on the Interagency Work Group and others have made progress in many areas:

- In December, the Interagency Work Group provided content for the **Unified State Plan**, with a focus on alignment between core and required program partners. This work will continue in early 2016 with the drafting and finalization of program-specific content and the full Unified Plan draft. The draft Unified Plan will be open for public comment in late January and early February 2016, with a final draft due for submittal March 3, 2016.
- **Memoranda of Understanding (MOU)** negotiations can now begin at the local level, with the final version of the Governor’s Guidelines as a resource to guide the process, timeline and principles of negotiating MOUs and shared costs among required partners. On page 3 of this issue of *Illinois Works Together*, you will find links to the Governor’s Guidelines and material from joint training webinars conducted to introduce the Guidelines. An MOU template is also being developed to provide additional support.
- **Regional Planning Meetings** occurred throughout Illinois in December with in-depth breakout sessions for each region. Each of the 10 regions received data specific to employment in the respective area, which helped to kick-start conversations and stimulate ideas for future planning activities.

As the next phase of WIOA implementation intensifies in 2016, program-specific questions are likely to arise. Page 3 includes a table of contact information for each required program partner. In preparation for performance accountability requirements taking effect for workforce activity beginning July 1, 2016, Page 4 provides a diagram illustrating the flow of performance data.

### WIOA Implementation Portal Resources

Additional resources continue to be available on the WIOA Implementation portal. 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](#)

### WIOA Wednesday Webinars

The Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity continues to conduct regular informational and interactive webinars entitled “WIOA Wednesday Webinars.” Webinars will return on January 13 with the first two sessions focused on regional planning.

#### 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:

Email your name, affiliation and email address to Kristi Jones at KEB: [kristij@kebcpa.com](mailto:kristij@kebcpa.com)



### Regional Planning Update

### System Vision and Principles



*Regional teams met in December to discuss data on maturing, leading and emerging industries in their respective regions. (Photo courtesy of Mike Baker)*

Regional Planning Meetings, led by **Maher & Maher**, brought together business, workforce development, economic development, adult education, vocational rehabilitation and other required partner programs in Illinois. These groups are responsible for collaboratively developing a regional plan.

All ten regions discussed the findings from their self-assessments and conducted an analysis of their strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats. Additionally, each group generated a comprehensive list of recognized organizational and program assets, existing industry sector/research studies that have been conducted in the area, a listing of sectors for priority focus and ideas for connecting employment supply to talent pools within the regions.

On February 23 and 24, teams will reconvene in Bloomington (location to be announced) to focus on action-oriented planning. Between now and the summit, regional teams should continue to meet and work on their plans. The foundational data analysis and the development of regional strategies, goals and action plans must be incorporated in the local workforce area plans. Regional plans must be in place by July 1, 2016. For more information on regional planning, visit: [WIOA Regional Planning](#).

#### Vision:

“Business-driven talent solutions that integrate education, workforce, and economic development resources across systems to provide businesses, individuals, and communities with the opportunity to prosper and contribute to growing the state’s economy.”

#### Eight Principles:

1. Demand-Driven Orientation
2. Strong Partnerships with Business at All Levels
3. Career Pathways to Today’s and Tomorrow’s Jobs
4. Cross-Agency Collaboration and Alignment
5. Integrated Service Delivery
6. Access and Opportunity for all Populations
7. Clear Metrics for Progress and Success
8. Focus on Continuous Improvement and Innovation



### Primary Contacts for Program-Specific Questions about WIOA Implementation

January 2016 will launch another phase of WIOA implementation, including continued regional planning activities, initial negotiations of MOUs and shared costs, and at some point in the spring, issuance of the final rules and regulations for WIOA. As these activities occur, program-specific questions are likely to arise. Each required partner under WIOA has identified the following individuals as primary contacts who can field your program-specific questions going forward.

Required Partner Agency	Contact Name	Email Address
Adult Education	Lavon Nelson	<a href="mailto:Lavon.Nelson@illinois.gov">Lavon.Nelson@illinois.gov</a>
Department of Commerce-Title IB	Lisa Jones	<a href="mailto:Lisa.D.Jones@illinois.gov">Lisa.D.Jones@illinois.gov</a>
Trade Adjustment Act (TAA)	Susan Boggs	<a href="mailto:Susan.Boggs@illinois.gov">Susan.Boggs@illinois.gov</a>
Trade Readjustment Act (TRA)	Susan Boggs	<a href="mailto:Susan.Boggs@illinois.gov">Susan.Boggs@illinois.gov</a>
Community Services Block Grant (CSBG)	Adrian Angel	<a href="mailto:Adrian.Angel@illinois.gov">Adrian.Angel@illinois.gov</a>
Department of Human Services-Vocational Rehabilitation	Douglas Morton	<a href="mailto:Douglas.Morton@illinois.gov">Douglas.Morton@illinois.gov</a>
Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)	Caprisca Randolph-Robinson	<a href="mailto:Caprisca.Randolph-Robinson@illinois.gov">Caprisca.Randolph-Robinson@illinois.gov</a>
Department of Employment Security-Wagner-Peyser	Antoinette Golden	<a href="mailto:Antoinette.Golden@illinois.gov">Antoinette.Golden@illinois.gov</a>
Unemployment Insurance	Justin Brissette	<a href="mailto:Justin.Brissette@illinois.gov">Justin.Brissette@illinois.gov</a>
Veterans Job Counseling, Training and Placement	Richard Wuthrich	<a href="mailto:Richard.Wuthrich@illinois.gov">Richard.Wuthrich@illinois.gov</a>
Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP)	Jennifer Morrell / Betsy Creamer	<a href="mailto:Jennifer.Morrell@illinois.gov">Jennifer.Morrell@illinois.gov</a> <a href="mailto:Betsy.Creamer@illinois.gov">Betsy.Creamer@illinois.gov</a>
Second Chance	Gladyse Taylor	<a href="mailto:Gladyse.Taylor2@doc.illinois.gov">Gladyse.Taylor2@doc.illinois.gov</a>
Perkins/CTE	Brian Durham / Amanda Corso	<a href="mailto:Brian.Durham@illinois.gov">Brian.Durham@illinois.gov</a> <a href="mailto:Amanda.Corso@illinois.gov">Amanda.Corso@illinois.gov</a>

Note that the Migrant and Seasonal Farmworkers, National Farmworker Jobs Program, Housing and Urban Development, YouthBuild, and Job Corps programs are only applicable where present in the local area. For questions, please contact your local representative.

### Governor's Guidelines Resources

Joint training webinars regarding the Governor's Guidelines for negotiating costs and services under WIOA were held December 14-16. The webinars covered:

- General guidelines for negotiation of local Memoranda of Understandings (MOUs),
- Guidelines for negotiation of comprehensive one-stop center infrastructure costs,
- Guidelines for negotiation of local one-stop delivery system costs, and
- Guidelines for the negotiation process and timeline.

Recordings of the joint training webinars, PowerPoint presentation, and Q & A can be found here:

<https://www2.illinoisworknet.com/WIOA/Outreach/Pages/Public-Documents.aspx>

Final version of the Governor's Guidelines can be accessed by clicking here:

[Governor's Guidelines](#)



Core program partners under WIOA will be collectively responsible for meeting performance measures that take effect for program activity starting July 1, 2016. The Workforce Data Quality Campaign provided the following diagram of how performance data will travel between required partners and State and Federal agencies. This chart will be helpful as required partners continue to consider feasible ways to align and integrate data systems and ensure all core program partners are positioned to meet performance accountability requirements of WIOA.

## How WIOA Performance Data Works

There are four titles of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), each authorizing different programs. All programs collect similar types of data and use the same core performance metrics. However, depending on the program, different entities are involved in the data collection and reporting. Here's a look at how the data travels:



### The Four Titles of WIOA Each Authorize Different Programs:

#### TITLE I

Helps jobseekers with career counseling, job search assistance, and job training.



#### TITLE II

Helps adults who lack basic skills. Services assist with improving reading, writing, math, and English proficiency; attaining a high school diploma or equivalent; and transition to employment or postsecondary education/training.



#### TITLE III

Helps jobseekers, including those getting unemployment benefits. Services assist jobseekers in finding work and help employers with recruiting.



#### TITLE IV

Helps individuals with disabilities maximize their employability, independence, and integration into the workplace and society. Programs offer comprehensive and individualized services including vocational rehabilitation, occupational training, and assistive technologies.



### FEDERAL LEVEL

Federal agencies review data on program performance to support federal funding and oversight.

The U.S. Department of Labor uses data from states to assess program effectiveness, including outcomes for participants with specific barriers to employment. DOL uses data to provide oversight and technical assistance.

DOL and ED make program reports available to the public.

The U.S. Department of Education receives Title II and Title IV data from states, and uses it for program oversight and technical assistance.



### STATE LEVEL

State agencies review data to monitor program performance and identify service providers that need technical assistance.

State agencies also collaborate with each other to link data to measure education progression and employment outcomes. Matching participant data with wage records shows what portion of participants get jobs and their average earnings, but this type of data linkage remains a challenge in some states.

Data is sent to federal agencies, some in aggregate form, and some at the individual level.

State workforce boards and state workforce agencies create statewide plans, share labor market information, develop performance reports, and maintain lists of eligible training providers. They use data to drive local board oversight and technical assistance.

State education agencies maintain a statewide database, aggregate data for federal reporting, and analyze data to assist with program improvement.

State vocational rehabilitation agencies administer program databases, monitor data for federal reporting, and analyze data to assist with program improvement.



### LOCAL LEVEL

Individual data on program participants is collected by organizations providing WIOA program services. It is used for local planning and sent to the state for review.

For Titles I and III, data from service providers may flow through the local workforce board or go directly to the state level, depending on the state and type of data.



### Who Uses the Data?

#### POLICYMAKERS

- Allocate resources to most effective programs
- Adjust program design to improve results



#### PROGRAM MANAGERS/ JOB COUNSELORS/ EDUCATORS

- Replicate success; identify areas for improvement
- Ensure quality services for target populations
- Customize services for individual needs



#### BUSINESSES

- Build confidence in program accountability
- Enhance willingness to partner with WIOA



#### STUDENTS AND WORKERS

- Choose training providers with record of success
- Select careers supported by employment outcome information



### Which Data Is Collected?

- Demographics
- Program eligibility
- Services received
- Employment and earnings outcomes
- Postsecondary educational attainment
- Skills gains
- Program costs

Visit [workforcedqc.org](http://workforcedqc.org) for more information.