



### OVERVIEW

This past month, WIOA implementation focused on two major components: 1) negotiating how required partners will align services and commit resources in comprehensive one-stop centers and throughout local workforce development systems, and 2) coordinating the planning efforts at the state, regional and local levels. Specifically the state made the following progress in these areas:

#### Negotiation Efforts

- **Memoranda of Understanding (MOU)** negotiations are underway at the local level. To support local negotiations and to enable continuity in the required elements of an agreement, an MOU template has been developed. Members of the joint Governance and Operations Task Advisory Group reviewed a draft template and expressed a preference for two separate documents: 1) a shell document providing a standard format with sections (required); and 2) a supporting document with suggested language in each section (optional). Included in the required template is a format for a local service matrix, outlining which services will be provided by each required partner and how, whether through onsite staff or technology that meets the “direct linkage” requirement. These documents have been revised accordingly and will be released shortly.
- The **Governor’s Guidelines** on negotiating MOUs and infrastructure costs will be reissued with revisions reflecting decisions made by the IWIB and the Interagency Work Group. The revisions include updated timelines, revised service matrices for comprehensive one-stop center services, clarification about the use of in-kind contributions for infrastructure costs and one-stop system costs and any other changes or updates required since the Guidelines were initially issued in December 2015. Upon revision, this updated version will be posted to the WIOA Implementation portal. Until the revisions are issued, the current and active version of the Governor’s Guidelines can be found here: [Governor's Guidelines](#).

#### Planning Update

- In late January, the core partners released the Unified State Plan for public comment. The public comment period closes on February 24, 2016. A final draft will be submitted to the Illinois Workforce Innovation Board (IWIB) on February 25. The U.S. Department of Labor’s Employment and Training Administration announced a one-month extension for plan submittal to April 1, 2016. The plan and all related documents can be found here: [Initial Unified State Plan](#).

### Online Resources for WIOA Implementation

#### MOU Negotiator List:

State-level partners have identified individuals who will negotiate local MOUs on behalf of the 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 updated regularly at the following link:

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

#### Additional resources:

Also 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 PLANNING UPDATE**

**Technical Assistance for Business Services Award**

**Planning Process Guide**

The State has published a Planning Process Guide that outlines the regional and local planning requirements that are included in the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) and proposed regulations. The purpose of the guidelines is to guide discussions with regional and local partners and provide additional information regarding the information that will be requested by June 30, 2016. It is anticipated that the State of Illinois will formalize the regional and local planning requirements as the U.S. Departments of Labor and Education issue the final planning regulations. The Planning Process Guide is available at: <https://www2.illinoisworknet.com/DownloadPrint/Regional%20Planning%20Process%20Guide.pdf>

**Statewide Summit**

Regional teams will come together on February 23rd and 24<sup>th</sup> to further their development of regional plans aligning education, workforce and economic systems.

The U.S. Department of Labor approved an estimated \$40,000 technical assistance request for the development of Illinois’ Business Engagement & Partner Alignment Strategic Guide. This effort will assist core partners under WIOA to better align business services.

The project will provide the State of Illinois with an environmental scan of current business engagement and service delivery across identified workforce system partners. The product will include a “map” of current efforts to support the first step of alignment—understanding gaps, overlaps and opportunities for integration. This product will also include best practices in aligned business engagement and service delivery based on information available through Workforce3One and the contractor’s experience working in other states and regions.

Representatives from the Interagency Work Group will be involved in the next steps of this process.

## Save the Date

# Location Change

**February  
23 & 24, 2016  
Springfield, IL**

**ILLINOIS INTEGRATED REGIONAL  
PLANNING PROJECT**

**BUILDING  
“WORLD CLASS”  
REGIONS**

**Statewide Summit**

© 2015 Maher & Maher



**UPDATE ON INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING NEGOTIATIONS**

The U.S. Department of Labor’s Employment and Training Administration delayed the effective date for local areas to agree upon cost sharing for comprehensive one-stop center infrastructure and other shared costs. This extension means local agreement on how required partners will share infrastructure costs will not be required until July 1, 2017. Also, the state funding mechanism will not be applicable until July 1, 2017 for local areas that are unable to reach agreement on how infrastructure costs will be shared among required partners. The exact language is as follows:

“The specific requirements for the local funding agreements, which are related to how the shared and infrastructure costs of the one-stop delivery system will be paid by the one-stop partners, need not be satisfied in the funding agreements for PY 2016. States and local areas may continue to negotiate local funding agreements as they have been doing under WIA for purposes of PY 2016. However, the local funding agreements must satisfy the requirements of section 121(h) of WIOA for purposes of funding the one-stop system in PY 2017.” The FAQ can be found at the following link:

<https://www.doleta.gov/WIOA/FAQs.cfm>

**PROPOSED EXTENDED TIMELINE**

**FOR MOU NEGOTIATIONS & CERTIFICATION OF COMPREHENSIVE ONE-STOP CENTERS IN 2016**

TIMEFRAME	ACTIVITY
December '15 – March '16	Regional Plan components developed, including economic and workforce analysis; integration and strategies and services; and vision, goals and strategies.
February '16 – April '16	Local Plan components developed, including operating systems and policies, performance goals and evaluation, and technical requirements and assurances.
	MOU negotiations begin March 1, 2016.
	The initial certification of comprehensive one-stop centers must begin by April 1, 2016.
April 15, 2016	Regional and Local components to the Initial Plan are finalized.
	MOU negotiations continue.
May 1, 2016	Initial Plan (Regional and Local components) posted for 30-day public comment period.
May 31, 2016	90-day negotiation period for MOUs ends with negotiation outcome reports (Appendix 9 of the Governor’s Guidelines) due to the Governor’s designee.
	Public comment period for the Initial Plan (Regional and Local components) ends.
June 15, 2016	Regional teams update the Initial Plan (Regional and Local components) based on public comments received.
June 30, 2016	The 90-day period allowed for local boards to certify comprehensive one--stop centers in Illinois ends. A list of certified comprehensive one one-stop centers in Illinois is developed and made available.
June 30, 2016	Initial Plan (Regional and Local Components) finalized and approved by Local Boards and submitted to the Governor’s designee.

**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](mailto:kristij@kebcpa.com)