



### INTRODUCTION

The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) took effect July 1, 2015, presenting an unprecedented opportunity for collaboration and improvement of employment, training, and educational programs throughout Illinois. State-level partners affected by the WIOA legislation have been working with local partners to ensure the Illinois system creates strategies to:

- create employer-driven training solutions,
- invest in innovation and next generation industries,
- establish efficient and responsive state government, and
- expand career pathways.

An Interagency Work Group is meeting to identify and address State-level issues with technical and programmatic details associated with new requirements under the law. The intended outcome is State-level policy that provides consistent direction to local-level partners as they establish effective one-stop delivery systems. In concert with these discussions, local-level partners are discussing issues that will influence the full implementation of WIOA and making recommendations to the Interagency Work Group for consideration. As a result, communication at every level is critical.

*Illinois Works Together* is the first joint communications issued by the Interagency Work Group to update local-level partners, contractors and representatives in one-stop delivery systems of implementation efforts, progress and resources. The intent of this communication is to help provide clarity and a common understanding of the multiple efforts and various resources available to support partners and integration of services.

### WHO ARE WIOA CORE PROGRAM PARTNERS?

- Programs serving youth, adults and dislocated workers under Title IB of WIOA
- Adult Education and literacy programs under Title II of WIOA
- Employment Services through Wagner-Peyser under Title III of WIOA
- Vocational rehabilitation services under Title I of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 – Title IV of WIOA

### WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT WEEK

August 31 through September 6, 2015 marks Workforce Development Week in Illinois. This week highlights the value of WIOA to individuals, employers and communities.

Encourage customers, employers and partners to visit the following online resources and explore how programs authorized under WIOA can help individuals gain the knowledge and skills they need to pursue a career in today's competitive job market and help employers access a skilled, qualified workforce to compete in the global economy.

- [WIOA Works Illinois](#)
- [Illinois workNet®](#)
- [Illinois Job Link](#)
- [Illinois Community College Board](#)
- [Vocational Rehabilitation](#)
- [Senior Community Service Employment Program](#)
- [Second Chance Act](#)



### COORDINATED IMPLEMENTATION EFFORTS

The Interagency Work Group is part of a larger State-level effort to develop a vision, guidelines and frameworks for cross-agency coordination. Specific examples follow:

- The National Governor’s Association facilitated a “Policy Academy” among State administrators, agency directors and local partners to develop a State-level vision and guiding principles for regional planning.
- A task force of the Illinois Workforce Investment Board is reviewing the Illinois Workforce Investment Board Act and board bylaws, recommending State-level policy requirements and considering the local perspective on implementation issues.
- WIOA Implementation Task Advisory Groups (TAGs) provide a local perspective on implementation issues in the areas of governance, operations, policy, planning, performance, technology and youth.
- The Interagency Work Group has formed three subgroups with distinct purposes:
  - A Subgroup on Performance Accountability is developing initial recommendations about performance measurement, management and strategies.
  - A Subgroup on MOUs, Infrastructure and One-Stop Certification is identifying potential State issues meeting service access obligations at the current one-stop centers before beginning detailed local conversations intended to produce an agreed-upon memorandum of understanding (MOU). The group also is developing a framework for sharing local infrastructure and local workforce system costs, suggesting guidelines to State agencies and local areas regarding negotiation of MOUs and is considering certification criteria of comprehensive one-stop centers.
  - A Subgroup on the State Unified Plan will be looking at issues that affect the Unified State Plan.
- Regional meetings will occur throughout Illinois to articulate workforce training and economic development system needs and to identify opportunities to develop cross-agency relationships. The strategies and recommendations from these meetings will influence the State Plan.

### CORE PROGRAM PARTNER CONTACTS

The following individuals may be contacted with questions about implementation efforts each of the core program partners under WIOA:

**Illinois Community College Board**  
**Adult Education/Career and Technical Education**  
Lavon Nelson  
217-557-2742  
[Lavon.Nelson@illinois.gov](mailto:Lavon.Nelson@illinois.gov)

**Department of Commerce**  
**Title IB**  
Lisa Jones  
217-558-3882  
[Lisa.D.Jones@illinois.gov](mailto:Lisa.D.Jones@illinois.gov)

**Department of Human Services**  
**Vocational Rehabilitation**  
Douglas Morton  
312-814-1936  
[Douglas.Morton@illinois.gov](mailto:Douglas.Morton@illinois.gov)

**Department of Employment Security**  
**Wagner-Peyser**  
Antoinette Golden  
312-793-5834  
[Antoinette.Golden@illinois.gov](mailto:Antoinette.Golden@illinois.gov)



### THE NEXT PHASE OF WIOA IMPLEMENTATION

The next phase of WIOA implementation is focusing on developing guidelines and processes WIOA requires of the Governor and the State Workforce Development Board. Work groups have been established to work on four primary tasks:

1. Adopt a framework for sharing local infrastructure and local workforce system costs.
2. Issue guidelines to State agencies and local areas related to negotiation of local memoranda of understandings (MOUs).
3. Develop criteria and processes for certification of local comprehensive one-stop centers.
4. Develop processes and procedures required to support the State infrastructure funding mechanism.

A summary of the work plan and timetable is included as Attachment 2 to this communication.

Local input in each area will be critical and gained through the Task Advisory Groups (TAGs) as the first step. A schedule of tasks for each TAG from now through December 2015 is included as Attachment 3 to this communication.

### FEDERAL GUIDANCE

The U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) periodically issues Training and Employment Guidance Letters (TEGLs) and other forms of guidance for WIOA implementation. Following are recently issued letters and notices.

**[Technical Assistance Circular RSA-TAC 15-02](#)**: Vision for State Vocational Rehabilitation Services Program as Partner under WIOA

**[TEGL 4-15](#)**: Vision for the One-Stop Delivery System

**[TEGL 3-15](#)**: Guidance on Services Provided through the Adult and Dislocated Worker Program under WIOA

**[Information Collection Request \(ICR\)](#)**: Solicits comments concerning the collection of data for the WIOA performance management, information and reporting system. Comments are due to DOL by September 21, 2015.

### ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES AND RESOURCES

#### ***WIOA Wednesday Webinars:***

The Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity has begun conducting weekly 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/wioa>

#### ***Audio Options:***

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

#### ***To receive email notices about upcoming webinars:***

Email your name, affiliation and email address to Bethany Jaeger, KEB.  
[bethanyj@kebcpa.com](mailto:bethanyj@kebcpa.com)



ATTACHMENT 1 - ILLUSTRATION OF RELATIONSHIPS AMONG PROGRAM PARTNERS IN LOCAL ONE-STOP DELIVERY SYSTEMS





ATTACHMENT 2 - FUNDING OF CERTIFICATION OF COMPREHENSIVE ONE-STOP CENTERS AND SUMMARY WORK PLAN FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT AND BASIC GOVERNANCE OF LOCAL ONE-STOP DELIVERY SYSTEMS

Implementation Area / Activity	Month / Year													
	July 2015	Aug. 2015	Sept. 2015	Oct. 2015	Nov. 2015	Dec. 2015	Jan. 2016	Feb. 2016	Mar. 2016	April 2016	May 2016	June 2016	July 2016	
Adopt framework for sharing infrastructure and system costs	█													
Issue guidelines to State agencies and Local Boards for MOU negotiations			█											
Develop criteria and processes for comprehensive center certification		█												
Develop policies and procedures to support State infrastructure mechanism							█							
Implement MOU negotiations and infrastructure funding mechanism							█							



ATTACHMENT 2 – TASK LIST* TO SUPPORT IMPLEMENTATION	TAG	MONTH
1. Input on a framework for service integration among local partners.	Operations	Ongoing
2. Input on content to be included in the Governor’s guidelines to State-administered programs regarding infrastructure funding.	Governance Operations	September 2015
3. Feedback on the definitions proposed as part of the cost sharing framework.	Operations	September 2015
4. Specific factors, elements or considerations to be included in the following criteria categories to be used for certification of comprehensive one-stop centers (Center): (a) Effectiveness; (b) Customer satisfaction, (c) Physical and programmatic accessibility, and (d) Continuous improvement.	Governance Operations	September 2015
5. Suggestions on required procedures for local board certification of Centers, including suggested processes or procedures necessary to eliminate conflict of interest or bias in local certification decisions.	Governance Operations	September 2015
6. Suggested factors that should be considered in the Governor’s determination of each required partner’s “proportionate use” and “covered portion” of Center infrastructure costs.	Operations	October 2015
7. Suggested content for guidelines for negotiation of local MOUs.	Governance Operations	October 2015
8. Suggestions for incentives that could be established to encourage local partners to reach agreement in their local MOU negotiations.	Governance Operations	October 2015
9. Input on the minimum period of time that needs to be allowed for local negotiation of MOUs.	Governance Operations	October 2015
10. Input on the formula the State board must establish for local distribution of State infrastructure funds.	Governance Operations	November 2015
11. Input on guidelines to local boards, chief elected officials and local partners for equitable and stable funding of infrastructure costs.	Governance Operations	November 2015
12. Input on the period of time local boards will need to certify comprehensive one-stop Centers.	Governance Operations	November 2015
13. Specific tasks or input the interagency subgroup working on a Unified Plan requests.	Planning	To Be Determined
14. Specific tasks or input the interagency subgroup working on performance requests.	Performance Technology	To Be Determined
15. Input on a beta release and full rollout of the online policy manual and use of the IwN portal for LWDB forms and documentation.	Policy	To Be Determined
16. Input on WIOA implementation enhancements including the Title IB application and IWDS data entries.	Operations	To Be Determined
17. Snags, questions or emerging concerns from a local perspective during the early period of implementation.	All	Ongoing

\* Including ongoing involvement in WIOA policy review and the standardization of operational forms and templates through the Illinois Workforce Partnership (IWP).