

## **NEW PROCESS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF WIOA POLICY GUIDANCE IN ILLINOIS**

Implementation of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunities Act (WIOA) in Illinois will be accompanied by changes in policy to reflect the new legislation and regulations. The IWIB Executive Committee has approved a new policy advisory process that will strengthen the involvement of the IWIB, WIOA partners, and other stakeholders. The intent is to make WIOA policy development in Illinois more collaborative and ensure that it yields cost-effective and efficient guidance to the field.

Central to this revised process are Policy Work Groups that will advise on new policy and needed change to existing policy. The IWIB, IWIB committees, and WIOA Interagency Team will be asked to nominate individuals from these stakeholder categories to serve on the Policy Work Groups:

- i. Local practitioners/Illinois Workforce Partnership members
- ii. Core partner agencies
- iii. Other affected agency partners
- iv. Employers (as practicable)
- v. Service providers
- vi. Other experts in in the technical/regulatory/compliance aspects of specific policy areas
- vii. Education entities
- viii. Economic development entities

An eight-step process is recommended for developing new policy or revising existing policy and may be customized as necessary:

1. Develop a background paper framing the policy and related issues.
2. Distribute the background paper in advance and convene the Work Group. External facilitators will be used to guide and document the discussion.
3. Prepare draft policy guidance using the recommendations from the Policy Work Group.
4. Review and revise the draft policy with the Policy Work Group, Commerce staff (e.g., monitoring, performance, fiscal and other), and the Interagency Workgroup to ensure it captures the input to date.
5. Discuss draft policy guidance with local workforce area front line staff.
6. If required, post the proposed policy for public review and comment.
7. Present recommended policy to the Executive Committee and/or IWIB for review and comment.
8. Ensure the policy is appropriate for public view, enter it into the Illinois ePolicy portal, and disseminate through existing channels.

The first three policy areas to be addressed are training, the Eligible Training Provider List, and Case Management/Career Planning and Eligibility.