

## **STATE OF ILLINOIS – WORKFORCE INNOVATION & OPPORTUNITY ACT CHIEF ELECTED OFFICIALS / LOCAL WORKFORCE INNOVATION BOARDS ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES**

### **BACKGROUND**

The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), passed by Congress in summer 2014, was fully implemented in July 2017. WIOA replaced the 1998 Workforce Investment Act and is the first federal reform of the workforce system in 15 years. It formally adopts many parts of Illinois' progressive workforce development model on a nationwide basis, with the goal of ensuring that our workforce system is job-driven - responding to the needs of the employers and preparing workers for jobs available now and in the future.

Under the WIOA, the Governor has the responsibility to designate and re-designate Local Workforce Innovation Areas (LWIA) that administer public workforce programs through Illinois workNet Centers. A LWIA is composed of one or more counties that provide workforce development services under the leadership of a business-led Local Workforce Innovation Board (LWIB). In 2015, twenty-two (22) LWIAs were initially identified by the Governor, under the authority of Section 106(b)(2) of the WIOA legislation.

#### *State Partners*

The *Core Partners* that administer the WIOA programs in Illinois are: Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (Commerce), Illinois Community College Board (ICCB), Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES), and the Illinois Department of Human Services – Vocational Rehabilitation Services (DHS-DRS).

#### *New Requirements – Regional Planning*

New to WIOA is the requirement in WIOA Section 106(a)(2) which states that “a single local area may not be split across two planning regions. Local areas must be contiguous in order to be a planning region and effectively align economic and workforce development activities and resources.” 20 CFR 679.210. In 2017 Illinois was monitored by the US Department of Labor (USDOL). USDOL observed that five LWIBs had six counties that are split between different planning regions (4/Ogle, 11/Livingston, 19/DeWitt, 21/Calhoun, Jersey and 23/Douglas). See the attached map. As a result of that monitoring, a formal finding was issued that requires Illinois to come into compliance with this requirement.

### **CHIEF ELECTED OFFICIALS ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES**

The WIOA provides the Chief Elected Officials (CEOs) with a significant amount of responsibility in the administration of the WIOA funded programs. CEOs have exclusive roles in several areas such as either serving or naming an alternate entity that will be the Grant Recipient and Fiscal Agent, appointing members of the LWIB to carry out the priorities of the CEOs, and assume financial responsibility for any grant funds determined to be misused or unallowable. CEOs must agree with LWIB action in several other significant areas such as: how WIOA funds will be used, including the budget for the LWIB and its staff; the negotiated Memorandum of Understanding; the four-year local plan; and the competitive selection process of the one-stop operator, including termination of the operator if warranted.

#### *Chief Elected Officials Agreement*

The law requires a written agreement (if there are multiple CEOs) between all CEOs in the LWIA. That agreement must outline the process of how the CEOs will appoint LWIB members, the name of the entities designated to be the Grant Recipient and Fiscal Agent, how liability will be shared if funds are misused, how the CEOs will partner with the LWIB to fulfill the responsibilities listed above, and how the CEOs will consult with the state concerning activities in the local area. The CEO Agreement is further defined in state policy (Policy 1.2 - CEO Functions and Agreement Between Multiple CEOs).

## **STATE OF ILLINOIS – WORKFORCE INNOVATION & OPPORTUNITY ACT CHIEF ELECTED OFFICIALS / LOCAL WORKFORCE INNOVATION BOARDS ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES**

### *Title IB Grant Recipient*

CEOs are the WIOA Title IB Grant Recipient for their LWIA, however they can designate another entity to be the Grant Subrecipient. In such instances, the CEOs delegate authority through a separate agreement for that entity to receive and distribute funds and enter into contractual agreements.

CEOs can also designate another entity to be Fiscal Agent. If another entity is designated to be the fiscal agent, the CEOs must assure compliance and ensure that they will responsibly manage grants and funds. CEOs are liable for any misused funds whether or not they continue as Grant Recipient / Fiscal Agent or another entity is designated. Any misused funds or disallowed costs must be repaid with non-federal funds. The definitions of Grant Recipient, Grant Subrecipient, and Fiscal Agent can be found in state policy (Policy 1.3 - CEO Delegation of Authority and Acknowledgment of Financial Liability).

### **LOCAL WORKFORCE INNOVATION BOARD FUNCTIONS**

WIOA lists twelve functions of the LWIB in Section 108 of WIOA. The major roles and responsibilities of the LWIB include establishing priorities and policies that are focused on:

- Development and submittal of the four-year regional and local plans through consultation with local workforce system stakeholders
- Negotiation with CEO(s) and required partners on the methods for funding the infrastructure costs of the one-stop centers
- Negotiation and agreement on local performance indicators with CEOs and the Governor
- Local Performance Oversight
- Certification of one-stop centers
- Financial Oversight
- Compliance Oversight

### *Local Workforce Innovation Board Composition*

The LWIB must have a business majority (greater than 50%) whose business reflect the demand sectors in the area and include at least two members who are representatives of small business as defined by the US Small Business Administration. Not less than (20%) of the membership must be from representatives of Labor organizations and registered apprenticeship programs. At a minimum, the board must include representatives from the following program partners: Adult Education, Vocational Rehabilitation, Higher Education, Wagner-Peyser, and Economic Development. WIOA removed the mandate for Youth Councils.

# LWIA and Regional Map

