

STATE OF ILLINOIS UNIFIED WORKFORCE PLAN MODIFICATION BRIEF 8-15-16

BACKGROUND

The Illinois Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Unified State Plan is designed to provide a vision of the Governor's integration of workforce, education, and economic development policy, while also serving as a federal compliance document for the United States Departments of Labor and Education under the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA). The Unified State Plan outlines the vision, principles, and goals for the integration of workforce, education, and economic development programs for the State of Illinois (state). In accordance with Section 102 of WIOA, the State of Illinois submitted the Unified State Plan for Illinois on March 30, 2016, to the U.S. Departments of Labor and Education (Departments).

ILLINOIS PLAN APPROVAL & TECHNICAL MODIFICATION REQUIREMENT

On June 17, 2016, the Departments responded to the State of Illinois that the 4-year plan was substantially approved. The approval letter stipulated that a number of technical revisions were required to be submitted to the Departments as a plan modification by September 1, 2016. The Departments expressed that the need for all of the states to modify their plans stemmed from the delay in the release of the federal regulations (which were released on June 30, 2016), a lack of direction from the federal program, the late release of the electronic portal for submission of the plan, and the overall transition from WIA to WIOA. Revisions to the plan respond to the technical requirements outlined in the federal regulations titled: *Required Elements for Submission of the Unified Plan under WIOA* including additional detail on the:

- Strategic elements, including youth goals and updated performance metrics
- State strategies, specifically with a focus on addressing individuals with barriers to employment
- Implementation of state strategies, including individuals, employers, training providers, and educational institutions
- Strategies for alignment, coordination, and engagement of all of the core partners
- Policies that will support the implementation of state strategies
- State Board functions and activities
- Alignment of technology and data systems
- Addition of charts, tables and graphs that were initially submitted as attachments and have since been imported directly into the portal

MODIFICATION DEVELOPMENT

The core partners immediately prepared a work plan and timeline to address the revisions to the common elements of the Unified State Plan as outlined by the Departments in the June 17 letter.

- The Interagency Work Group approved this work plan and timeline at the Interagency Work Group meeting on July 6, 2016. Additionally, each of the core partners (the Illinois Departments of Commerce, Employment Security, Human Services Division of Rehabilitation Services, and the Illinois Community College Board) took responsibility for responding to the requested modifications to the common elements and program-specific content.
- The core partners were convened following the approved timeline through conference calls and email communication.
- On August 9, the core partners met with federal representatives from the Departments for technical assistance on the submittal of the plan modifications. During the call, representatives were able to view modified content that was entered into the electronic portal. The Departments reinforced the need to make sure that the plan fully describes all the innovation

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MODIFICATION BRIEF 8-15-16**

and collaboration that has occurred between the core partners related to workforce, education and economic development.

MODIFICATION REVIEW AND APPROVAL

The technical modification will be posted for public comment and submitted to the Executive Committee of the Illinois Workforce Board and Governor's Office during the week of August 15, 2016. The Interagency team will make any requested revisions and will ask for formal approval of the Unified Plan Modification.

MODIFICATION SUBMISSION

The final version of the Unified State Plan modification will officially be submitted to the Departments through the portal before the deadline of September 1. Upon submission, all plan modifications and attachments will be available in their final form on Illinois workNet.