

**U.S. Department of Labor**



**Employment and Training Administration  
REGION 5**

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Chicago, IL 60604-1505

<http://www.doleta.gov/regions/region-05.cfm>

February 13, 2020

Beth Townsend, Director  
Iowa Workforce Development  
1000 E. Grand Avenue  
Des Moines, IA 50319-0209

Dear Director Townsend:

This is to provide additional guidance related to Iowa Workforce Development's (IWD) continued at-risk status. We are aware that IWD has begun to make adjustments to its WIOA compliance timeline, given the Department's recent ruling to uphold the local area appeal and the State's decision to no longer lead a local area realignment effort. This letter provides ETA's expectations related to timeframes for achievement of the key WIOA compliance provisions to assist you in finalizing your plans for moving forward.

- It is our expectation that Program Year 2020 WIOA grant funds, starting July 1, 2020, will be distributed by IWD to designated fiscal agents in each of the State's local areas.
- Prior to July 1, 2020, the State should work with the Chief Local Elected Officials (CLEOs) and the WIOA service providers to determine whether existing service provider contracts for the Adult, Dislocated Worker (DW) and Youth programs, ending June 30, 2020, will be extended for a limited amount of time (the State's new timeline indicates December 2020) or if new providers will be selected.

Note that the CLEOs may designate Adult and DW service providers, but Youth service providers must be competitively procured, unless the Local Board is going to provide services in-house. We understand that IWD has asked about the ability of the CLEOs to designate the Youth providers, along with Adult and DW providers, to facilitate the transition. This is not allowable under WIOA and, as such, would require that IWD submit a waiver request. Given the time it takes for review and approval of waiver requests, we recommend extension of all current service provider contracts for a limited transition period.

The continuity of services to customers is of utmost importance in all of this. We encourage IWD to ensure that the CLEO's make the service provider structure a priority.

- While the above work is going on, the CLEOs should begin to appoint Local Board members and work with the Local Boards to secure staff support for the performance of the WIOA-required local board functions. One such function is to competitively procure and select a One-Stop Operator (OSO). It is our expectation that all local areas in Iowa will have OSOs in place by December 31, 2020, as is reflected in the State's timeline.

We look forward to working with you and your team to move Iowa into WIOA compliance by the new Program Year starting July 1. My team in the Regional Office is available to assist, as needed. If you have any questions, please contact your FPO, Tommy Ouyang at 312.596.5512.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Christine Quinn', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Christine Quinn  
Regional Administrator