

WORKFORCE DIRECTOR REPORT

February 2016

NEW ITEMS

Local Plan Development

The Regional Workforce Development Board (RWDB) will need to write a Unified Local Plan (ULP) that reflects the new WIOA legislation. To assist local boards and workforce partners in this process the state is using the lowagrants.gov website. An electronic template of the document was created in the website on February 10. The draft ULP is due to the state on March 10. Some work has been done prior to the availability of the template, therefore typing the draft into the document in the short timeframe given should be possible. The template looks different than what plans have been in the past. The document is arranged in five forms: Regional Information; Strategic Elements; Regional Strategic Planning; Operational Planning Elements; and, Regional Operating System and Policy. As draft forms are completed by staff, they will be emailed out to the RWDB/CEO for comment. When all forms are complete and comments are considered, the draft ULP will be sent to the state for a 30 day public comment period (assuming the RWDB & CEO approve). When this period expires, the ULP will go to the state board in May for final approval.

Labor Market Information

The Labor Market Information (LMI) Division of IWD has launched a redesigned website to distribute data and information related to Iowa's labor market and workforce. The new site (www.iowalmi.gov) contains the following information: employment; unemployment; wages; industry and occupational employment; industry and occupational projections; unemployment insurance statistics; Laborshed Studies; employer surveys; education outcomes; career information; and, other labor market related publications. The website is intended to provide users the ability to easily access statewide, regional and local data. The old site was tedious; the new one has been organized to be topic-driven, supposedly making it easier for users to find information.

Future Ready Iowa

Governor Branstad and Lt Gov. Reynolds announced the Future Ready Iowa Summit to be held in Des Moines on April 19, 2016 at Hy-Vee Hall. This is advertised as an opportunity to receive and share ideas, programs, and efforts regarding how best to close Iowa's skills gap. Information about the summit may be found at futurereadyiowa.gov/. This event looks a great deal like the WIAD Employer-Educator Summit on a grander scale.

UPDATES

State Plan

The second draft of Iowa's WIOA Unified State Plan is available for public comment until 4:00 PM on February 21. Comments are requested for content, language, and overall implementation. The full document it can be found at www.iowaworkfocedevelopment.gov.

Request for Proposal

The RFP process and rules will be made public through the www.iowawdb.gov on March 1. Typically the COG's Workforce Director would work with the RWDB to facilitate the process, however, because Region XII COG is an applicant, the Workforce Director is considered to have a conflict of interest. IWD will designate a representative to work with the RWDB Chair as the board works through the FRP process to choose the Adult, Dislocated Worker and Youth program operators.

Regional Workforce Development Board Website

Dedicated websites for the 15 regional workforce development boards are under construction. Board meeting notices, agendas, and minutes are available at this time. The new website at www.iowawdb.gov will also provide transparency and easy public access to information.