



Oregon Workforce Investment Board **Communication**

October 2016

What is this Communication?

The Oregon Workforce Investment Board will provide regular communication to the Oregon workforce system regarding the work of the OWIB, workforce strategy and planning, system alignment, program policy and guidance, compliance and monitoring, and other issues based on questions and requests for information received. If you have a question or would like additional information, please contact Todd Nell, Executive Director at 503-947-2406 or todd.a.nell@oregon.gov.

Who is responsible for operational leadership and system alignment?

At the state level the Workforce System Executive Team (WSET) is responsible for collaborating toward joint agreement on the best approaches to workforce systems issues that impact multiple agencies, programs, or initiatives. The members include Karen M. Humelbaugh (Director, Office of Workforce Investments, HECC), Patrick Crane (Director, Office of Community Colleges and Workforce Development, HECC), Dan Haun (Deputy Director, Self-Sufficiency Programs, DHS), Pete Karpa (Deputy Director, Vocational Rehabilitation Program, DHS), Jim Pfarrer (Division Director Workforce Operations, OED), and David Gerstenfeld (Division Director Unemployment Insurance, OED). At the local level, Local Leadership Teams, convened and led by Local Workforce Development Boards (LWDBs), have the same charge. Alignment and collaboration are essential in a complex system to create a customer-centric workforce system that is easy to access, highly effective, and simple to understand. Communication from the WSET will expand over the coming year through a variety of means including this OWIB Communication, webinars like the one held on August 12, 2016 regarding one-stop infrastructure cost allocation, and other means which will facilitate further alignment between the state and local level. In addition, the WSET is currently working on a dispute resolution policy and process to be released as soon as it is available.

What is the current status of state efforts to provide WIOA policy and guidance?

WIOA is landmark legislation that is designed to strengthen and improve our nation's public workforce system and help get Americans, including youth and those with significant barriers to employment, into high-quality jobs and careers and help employers hire and retain skilled workers. Since its passage, successful implementation of WIOA is the overarching priority for the workforce system. State policy and guidance for the system and to local areas responding to the law, the Final Rules recently issued by DOL and other federal agencies related to the law, and federal guidance is critical to ensure successful implementation.

DOL recognizes the significant challenges faced by all states for WIOA implementation. They have consistently supported continued forward progress in an evolving policy environment. The Office of Workforce Investments (OWI) intends to continue to do the following: (1) Add all new WIOA policies only to the weebly site ([WIOA Policies and Guidance](#)) as they are developed including those developed beyond Title I, (2) Develop policies according to identified priorities, (3) Remove all old policies in all locations online at the end of the policy development process. In order to better inform development priorities, OWI will send a quick survey to LWDBs in mid-October. Some specific policy and guidance updates include:

- Comprehensive One-Stop Center Technical Assistance (I) Required Partner Programs, Service, and Activities – Draft released on September 29, 2016 to be considered by the OWIB Executive Committee on October 19.
- WorkSource Oregon Center Certification – Draft policy will be available in November.
- One-Stop Centers (Operator procurement, MOUs, cost allocation) – DOL has indicated that TEGs are coming out on infrastructure and cost sharing on November 16 and one-stop operator procurement on November 29. Substantial preparation has occurred regarding these issues and draft policy development will be completed immediately after the TEGs have been released and reviewed.
- Fiscal Policies – The WIOA Adult/Youth and Dislocated Worker in-state allocation policies are currently being reviewed internally. It is anticipated that these will be released for public review in November. Other fiscal policies will be developed according to priority.

DOL has also indicated that TEGs are coming out in November and December regarding Youth and WIOA Performance, respectively.

What can be expected for the monitoring process in this program year?

Program and fiscal monitoring is performed by the state for local areas and it assures compliance with WIOA and the Rules and guidance issued by DOL. Monitoring for local areas will begin after January 1, 2017. Requests to schedule monitoring with LWDBs will be sent out before November 1, 2016. Monitoring is always important but will be more challenging over the next few years due to the changes resulting from WIOA. DOL continues to provide technical assistance for program monitoring at the state level and OWI will similarly provide technical assistance for local program monitoring. Compliance is key, but the focus for upcoming local area monitoring will be on technical assistance. Scheduled monitoring will address PY15 but will also pick up some fiscal monitoring of PY14. The Monitoring Guide for local areas will be released after January 1 with sufficient time to respond before site visits. If you have a question or would like additional information, please contact Debi Welter, Education and Workforce Policy Liaison at 503-947-3032 or debra.a.welter@oregon.gov.

How will the OWIB local plan check-in be handled?

Local plans were submitted by each LWDB for review by OWIB in in the spring of 2016. As stated then, OWIB planned to schedule local plan “check-ins” with each local area to discuss progress toward implementation of the local plans and to identify additional areas of need within the plans. Some Local WDBs have already submitted “Conditional Approval” items in your local/regional plan. These are appreciated. Others changes can be submitted according to the established process ([Local Plan Submission Instructions](#)). OWIB will not schedule local plan check-ins at this time. Further guidance will be issued regarding formal plan modification procedures in PY17 unless State- or federal-level directives (or other significant changes) affect this timeline. This does not affect the ongoing effort to connect OWIB Local Liaisons with their respective Local WDBs.

What can you tell us about a new grant recently received by HECC?

HECC has been recently awarded a \$1,010,000 Reemployment & System Integration Dislocated Worker Grant (RSI DWG) to support high quality statewide service delivery and to improve employment outcomes for Dislocated Workers, including those who are UI claimants or long-term unemployed. This support will be provided through investment in two integrated technology solutions that support connectivity across programs and services provided to Dislocated Workers. These are a Combined Data Warehouse Study and Customer Access Project.