



Workforce Issuance

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☐ Policy ☒ Information

To: Chief Elected Officials
MassHire Workforce Board Chairs
MassHire Workforce Board Directors
MassHire Career Center Directors
MassHire Fiscal Officers
MDCS Operations Managers

cc: WIOA State Partners

From: Alice Sweeney, Director
MassHire Department of Career Services

Date: November 9, 2020

Subject: **Lessons Learned from the State Occupational Licensing Consortium /
Addressing State Policies – WorkforceGPS Webinar**

Purpose: To notify MassHire Workforce Boards, MassHire Career Center Operators, and other local workforce partners of a webinar sponsored through WorkforceGPS: Lessons Learned from the State Occupational Licensing Consortium – Addressing State Policies scheduled for November 20th from 2:00 – 3:30.

Background: Learn from states working to increase access into licensed occupations and mobility of licensed workers. Sixteen states participated in a DOL-funded consortium to review occupational licensing policies and practices. State consortium participants learned from each other. Hear their takeaways first-hand. Solutions for barriers to entry for specific groups will be noted, including Veterans, military spouses, those with a criminal record, and dislocated workers.

Sixteen states participated in a four-year, joint effort focused on reviewing and streamlining occupational licensing policy and procedures to open access and increase mobility. This four-year project was funded by the Department of Labor

An equal opportunity employer/program.

Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.

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and led and implemented by the National Conference of State Legislatures, National Governors Association Center for Best Practices and The Council of State Governments. This webinar will share lessons learned from participants in the project and takeaways for others interested in addressing occupational licensing issues and impacts.

Occupational licensing has emerged as a chief policy issue for state leaders in recent years. While licensing serves as a tool to safeguard public health and safety, it can come with economic and social costs. States are uniquely tasked with harmonizing the competing interests of maintaining high standards of public health and safety and ensuring that occupational licensing policies do not unduly inhibit economic growth, prevent workforce mobility, or disproportionately limit opportunity for certain individuals.

States must also consider how occupational licensing policies impact workforce development, criminal justice reform, immigration, military affairs, and unemployment. Most importantly, because of the cooperative nature in which occupational licensing policy is developed and implemented, this policy area serves as an example in which cross-state collaboration and bipartisanship truly flourish.

WorkforceGPS is an online technical assistance website created to help build the capacity of America's public workforce investment system. Sponsored by the Employment and Training Administration of the U.S. Department of Labor, WorkforceGPS was developed specifically for workforce professionals, educators, and business leaders. WorkforceGPS is free but does require account registration.

Action

Requested: Please share this issuance as appropriate.

Effective: Immediately.