



**MASSACHUSETTS
WORKFORCE INNOVATION AND OPPORTUNITY ACT
JOINT PARTNER COMMUNICATION**

WIOA Joint Partner Communication 01.2024

☐ Policy ☒ Information

To: MassHire Workforce Board Chairs
MassHire Workforce Board Directors
MassHire Career Center Directors
MassHire Fiscal Officers
MDCS Operations Managers
Adult Education Providers
Massachusetts Rehabilitation Offices and Providers
Massachusetts Commission for the Blind Offices and Providers
Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP) Providers
Dept. of Transitional Assistance Offices and providers of SNAP and TANF services

From: Jennifer James, Undersecretary,
Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development
Diane Hurley, Acting Director
MassHire Department of Career Services
Katie Dishnica, Director
Department of Unemployment Assistance
Toni Wolf, Commissioner
Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission
John Oliveira, Commissioner
Massachusetts Commission for the Blind
Wyvonne Stevens-Carter, State Adult Education Director
Dept of Elementary and Secondary Ed, Adult and Community Learning Services
Olga Yulikova, Senior Community Service Employment Manager
Executive Office of Elder Affairs
Jeffery McCue, Commissioner
Department of Transitional Assistance

Date: **January 30, 2024**

Subject: Workforce Plan Public Comment Period and Virtual Public Sessions

Purpose: To notify MassHire Workforce Boards, MassHire Career Center Operators, and other local workforce partners of the PY2024 – 2027 Massachusetts Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Workforce Plan public comment period and virtual public sessions.

Background: The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) requires the submission of a State Plan that includes a four-year strategy and operational plan for the implementation of the state’s workforce development system.

WIOA requires states to provide the opportunity for public comment and input which allows interested stakeholders to participate actively, effectively, and transparently in the development of the plan, including via accessible means for individuals with disabilities.

Massachusetts seeks to fulfill this requirement through a public comment period process consisting of feedback through a web-based platform and two virtual public sessions. The public comment period is January 29, 2024 – February 12, 2024. Dates and times for the two virtual public sessions are listed below.

The PY2024 – 2027 (July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2028) Massachusetts WIOA Workforce Plan will be made available for public review and comment beginning Monday, January 29, 2024.

The Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development will hold two virtual public comment sessions on the draft state workforce plan. As part of the Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act (WIOA), the U.S. Department of Labor requires all states to submit a state plan. Massachusetts’ draft plan sets forth the Healey-Driscoll Administration’s workforce agenda, provides a framework in coordination with major public workforce system partners, represents over \$400 million in partnership with several state agencies, outlines the collaboration between state and local workforce partners, and builds consensus across focus areas, strategies, and stakeholders.

The vision, goals, and strategies outlined in the draft Massachusetts State Plan center on increasing equity, leveraging pathways to close the skills gap and meet industry demands, and ensure Massachusetts’ workers, untapped talent, and rising talent are positioned for success and employers can access the talent they need to thrive. The State Plan outlines strategies on: 1) Talent Attraction and Retention, 2) Talent Development, 3) Lead by Example, and 4) Workforce System Infrastructure.

At the public comment sessions, interested stakeholders are invited to provide feedback, input, and relevant data and information. Feedback received during the public comment sessions will be reviewed before the State Plan is finalized. US

DOL requires all state plans to be submitted by March 4, 2024. Public comment can also be shared online upon viewing the draft State Plan. The link to the PY2024 – 2027 Massachusetts WIOA Workforce Plan is located [here](#).

Workforce Plan Virtual Public Session #1

Date: Wednesday, January 31, 2024

Time: 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm

Workforce Plan Virtual Public Session #2

Date: Tuesday, February 6, 2024

Time: 2:00 pm – 3:30 pm

[Click here to register for either session.](#)

The Workforce Plan virtual public sessions will be recorded.

Inquiries: Inquires can be directed to Sacha Stadhard at sacha.stadhard@mass.gov.

References: [Training and Employment Guidance Letter no. 04-23, Requirements for Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act \(WIOA\) State Plans for Program Years \(PY\) 2024 - 2027](#)