



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

WIOA Joint Partner Communication 02.2021

Policy Information

To: Chief Elected Officials
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
Alice Sweeney, Director
MassHire Department of Career Services
Richard Jeffers, Director
Department of Unemployment Assistance
Toni Wolf, Commissioner
Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission
David D'Arcangelo, Commissioner
Massachusetts Commission for the Blind
Wyvonne Stevens-Carter, State Adult Education Director
Department of Elementary and Secondary Ed, Adult and Community Learning Services
Olga Yulikova, Senior Community Service Employment Manager
Senior Community Service Employment Program
Amy Kershaw, Commissioner
Department of Transitional Assistance

Date: February 12, 2021

Subject: **FY21 WIOA State Partner Infrastructure Contributions**

Purpose: To notify MassHire Workforce Boards, MassHire Career Center Operators, MassHire Fiscal Officers, and other local workforce partners of guidance on WIOA State Partner infrastructure contributions to the MassHire Career Centers (MCCs).

Background: WIOA law (Sec121 B1 & h) and 20 CFR §463.510 cites that all required Partners must contribute to support both shared and infrastructure costs of the one-stop centers. The Final Rule notes, “Jointly funding services is a necessary foundation for an integrated service delivery system.”

The State WIOA required Partners include:

- Adult Community Learning Services (ACLS)
- Department of Transitional Assistance (DTA)
- Massachusetts Commission for the Blind (MCB)
- Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission (MRC)
- Senior Community Services Employment Program (SCSEP)

WIOA State and Local Partners agree that the most important activity within the local MOU process is the regular convening of local MOU teams to build new or build upon established relationships, refine services to shared customers and continually examine and improve customer flow within each of the MassHire Workforce System’s sixteen workforce areas. At the state level, Partners continue to work together to develop and/or adjust the formula for distribution of infrastructure funding based upon local data from each of the 16 workforce areas, identify expected outcomes to be locally achieved and determine a methodology for redistribution or reallocation of funds if performance expectations are not met or funds are underutilized.

The MassHire Department of Career Services (MDCS), as the State Workforce Agency (SWA), maintains a master contract with each of the 16 Chief Elected Official’s Fiscal Agents. To facilitate distribution of Partner funds to the local areas, State and Local Partners agree that MDCS will act as the conduit of funds to support infrastructure costs utilizing this established contracting mechanism. This cost effective and efficient manner for transferring these funds enables the local MOU teams to focus on integration of services and to negotiate in every local area the specific use of the funds, individualized, based upon each Partner’s contribution and with the model for the delivery of services negotiated by local Partner representatives.

Policy: Consistent with the goals of WIOA, the required WIOA Partners have established Interagency Service Agreements (ISAs) to set forth the terms, conditions, and procedures under which the required WIOA State Partners will provide infrastructure funds to support services to shared customers at the MassHire Career Centers (MCCs). MDCS will act as the conduit for these funds, utilizing the established contracting mechanism to distribute WIOA infrastructure funds to local fiscal agents for services provided at the MCCs.

Each MassHire local Board, in conjunction with the local Fiscal Agent, will ensure all allocations are incorporated into the local integrated budget as part of the annual planning process. The local MOU teams, led by the local board, will monitor the ongoing use of the funds, evaluate the actual cost vs. benefit and offer recommendations for funding adjustments for the following fiscal year.

Local Boards with more than one MCC in a local area, working with the respective local Partners, will determine the infrastructure amount to distribute to each MCC and how funds will be utilized consistent with ISA requirements.

The FY2021 ISA funds are to be fully expended by June 30, 2021.

Shared Customer Reporting

At minimum, quarterly reports will be sent to the WIOA State Partners that include the number of shared customers enrolled, exited, received WIOA-funded training and attained employment through the MCCs. Customers who are eligible for and receive services from more than one WIOA Partner program are considered shared customers. Information on shared customers must be captured in the Massachusetts One-Stop Employment System (MOSES) database.

Capturing Information in MOSES

Please refer to WIOA Joint Partner Policy Communication: *01.2018 WIOA Partner Shared Customers* <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/massworkforce-joint-partner-policy> for capturing information in MOSES.

Instruction for Placing Funds in the Integrated Budget

Both the Integrated Budget and the Fiscal Status Report (FSR) forms have been adapted to incorporate expenditure of partner funds.

The Integrated Budget template includes a column for each Partner funding source. Please enter the amount of ISA funds your local area has received from each Partner in that column as appropriate and budget appropriately.

Reporting Partner ISA Contributions

Local area Fiscal Agents will report funds spent on infrastructure in the Fiscal Status Report (FSR) row and column for the particular "Partner Infrastructure Contributions."

FY2021 Partner expenses must be submitted to MDCS on the FSR Partner page for the quarters in which Partner funds were expended and these will, in turn, be provided to the appropriate partner agencies.

**Local Board
Action**

Required: MassHire Workforce Boards must ensure infrastructure funds are utilized in accordance with the instructions within this policy and attachments, as well as pursuant to the individual agency ISA.

**Partner
Action**

Required: Representatives from local WIOA Partners will monitor the ongoing use of the funds and the outcomes being achieved; evaluate the actual cost vs. benefit; and offer recommendations for funding adjustments for the following fiscal year.

Effective: Immediately

Attachments: Individual WIOA Partner Contribution and Responsibility Summaries:

- A. Adult Community Learning Services (ACLS)
- B. Department of Transitional Assistance (DTA)
- C. Massachusetts Commission for the Blind (MCB)
- D. Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission (MRC) - *Upon Availability*
- E. Senior Community Services Employment Program (SCSEP) (State) - *Upon Availability*
- F. Senior Community Services Employment Program (SCSEP) (National) - *Upon Availability*

Inquiries: Please email all questions to PolicyQA@MassMail.State.MA.US. Also, indicate Issuance number and description.