

ATTACHMENT A

Process Details for Assigning Local Workforce Development Areas to Regions

The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) sets the provision that the Governor (State) assign Local Workforce Development Areas to a region prior to the submission of the State Combined Plan.

20CFR Sections 679.200 and 679.210 describes the purpose and requirement for identifying regions under Section 106 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity ACT (WIOA).

PURPOSE

WIOA requires States to establish regions in order to ensure that WIOA Title I Adult, Youth and Dislocated Worker programs together with the Wagner Peyser (Employment Service) program support economic growth and related employment opportunities and are meeting the skill competency requirement of the regions.

In addition, the development of comprehensive regional partnerships facilitates alignment of workforce development activities with regional economic development activities, and better supports the execution and implementation of sector strategies and career pathways.

It is believed that regional cooperation may also lower costs and increase the effectiveness of service delivery to businesses that span more than one local workforce development area within a region and to job seekers through coordination of shared services, processes and operations.

When the Governor(s) assigns two or more local areas to a region, the region, per WIOA sec. 3(48), is considered a planning region and is required to (at a minimum) engage in Regional Coordination as described in WIOA at Section 106(c):

(c) REGIONAL COORDINATION.—

(1) REGIONAL PLANNING.—The local boards and chief elected officials in each planning region described in subparagraph (B) or (C) of subsection (a)(2) shall engage in a regional planning process that results in—

(A) the preparation of a regional plan [described in paragraph (2)]

(B) the establishment of regional service strategies, including use of cooperative service delivery agreements;

(C) the development and implementation of sector initiatives for in-demand industry sectors or occupations for the region;

- (D) the collection and analysis of regional labor market data (in conjunction with the State);
- (E) the establishment of administrative cost arrangements, including the pooling of funds for administrative costs, as appropriate, for the region;
- (F) the coordination of transportation and other supportive services, as appropriate, for the region;
- (G) the coordination of services with regional economic development services and providers; and
- (H) the establishment of an agreement concerning how the planning region will collectively negotiate and reach agreement with Governor on local levels of performance for, and report on, the performance accountability measures (described in section 116(c)), for local areas or the planning region.

(2) REGIONAL PLANS.—The State, after consultation with local boards and chief elected officials for the planning regions, shall require the local boards and chief elected officials within a planning region to prepare, submit, and obtain approval of a single regional plan that includes a description of the activities described in paragraph (1) and that incorporates local plans for each of the local areas in the planning region. The State shall provide technical assistance and labor market data, as requested by local areas, to assist with such regional planning and subsequent service delivery efforts.

PROCESS REQUIREMENTS

WIOA requires that in identifying regions the Governor (State) must:

1. Consult with Local Chief Elected Officials (CEOs);
2. Consider the extent to which the local areas in a proposed region:
 - a) Share a single labor market;
 - b) Share a common economic development area; and
 - c) Possess the Federal and non-Federal resources, including appropriate education and training institutions, to administer activities under WIOA.

In addition to the required criteria described above, other factors the Governor (State) may consider include:

- a) Population centers
- b) Commuting patterns

- c) Land ownership
- d) Industrial composition
- e) Location quotients
- f) Labor force conditions
- g) Geographic boundaries
- h) Additional factors as determined by the Secretary (U.S. Department of Labor)

3. Identify regions that must be defined as consisting of at least:

- a) One local area;
- b) Two or more contiguous local areas in a single State; or
- c) Two or more contiguous local area in two or more States

PROCESS

After consideration of all the factors identified above, the Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development (EOLWD) on behalf of the Governor will present draft proposed regions to the Workforce Skills Cabinet (Secretary of Labor and Workforce Development; Secretary of Economic Development; and Secretary of Education) for approval.

Following the approval the Workforce Skills Cabinet the draft proposal will be forwarded to the State Board, Local Chief Elected Officials, and Local Boards for review and comment.

EOLWD will review comments and finalize region designations to be submitted to the Governor and State Board for approval.

EOLWD will post a document identifying regions through the MassWorkforce Issuance process.