

Submitted by
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1. Meetings
 - a. Meeting with Representative Pat Owenby and Senator Kim David
 - b. HHS Cabinet Meeting
 - c. NewView Oklahoma
 - d. Oklahoma Commission on Children and Youth
 - e. Oklahoma Rehabilitation Counsel Executive Committee
 - f. School for the Blind
 - g. People with Disabilities Awareness Day 2016
 - h. Staff meetings
 - i. Transition and Employment Committee Meeting
 - j. Meeting with OCB and NFB of Oklahoma
 - k. DDD Staff Meeting
 - l. HHS/Education Joint Messaging
2. Communications
 - a. State Audit Report
3. Updates
 - a. People with Disabilities Awareness Day 2016
 - b. Executive Team Schedule
 - c. National Search for OSB Superintendent
 - d. WIOA/WorkForce Systems



Mary Fallin
Governor

March 24, 2016

Chief Local Elected Officials
Workforce Development Board Chairs
Workforce Development Board Directors
Governor's Council for Workforce and Economic Development

RE: Workforce Development Planning Regions

Dear Colleagues:

The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) represents a renewed commitment to workforce development through innovation and support for individual and national economic growth. It aims at increasing opportunities, particularly for those facing barriers to employment, and invests in the important connection between education and career preparation. WIOA looks to the prosperity of workers and employers to focus on the economic growth of communities, regions and states to enhance our global competitiveness as a country.

In order for a state to receive Title I monies under WIOA, and as part of the process for developing the state plan, a state shall identify regions consistent with:

- State labor market areas;
- Regional economic development areas; and,
- Whether the area will have sufficient federal/non-federal funds and appropriate education and training providers, including institutions of higher education and career and technical education schools to effectively administer activities for this law.

Regions shall be comprised of:

- One local area that is aligned with the region;
- Two or more local areas that are collectively aligned with the region; and,
- Interstate areas contained within two or more states and consist of labor market areas, economic development areas, or other appropriate contiguous subareas of those states.

One purpose of the planning regions is to foster partnerships necessary to reduce costs and meet training needs of our workforce. Additionally, planning regions will allow WIOA resources to be more effectively and efficiently managed. In order to receive input from valued workforce partners, local elected officials and other stakeholders, the state held nine public meetings

statewide in 2015 to gather comments and discuss the process for determining planning regions as proposed under WIOA. Consideration was made to properly ensure partner participation as required for WIOA data reporting. Contributions during the development process and in the comment period were incorporated, resulting in the creation of four planning regions. Please see the attached map of planning regions for the State of Oklahoma at the conclusion of this letter.

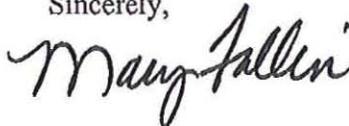
Local boards and chief elected officials in each planning region shall be required to engage in a regional planning process for program year 2016 that includes:

- Prepare a regional plan;
- Establish regional service strategies;
- Develop and implement sector strategies;
- Collect and analyze regional labor market data;
- Establish administrative cost arrangements;
- Coordinate transportation and other supportive services;
- Coordinate services with regional economic development services; and,
- Establish an agreement concerning how the planning region will collectively negotiate and reach agreement on local levels of performance and report on performance accountability measures.

Governor Fallin has identified planning regions within Oklahoma and has submitted these regions to the U.S. Department of Labor in accordance with Section 106 of WIOA. Guidance for the framework of the regional plan will be issued in the near future from the Oklahoma Office of Workforce Development.

As the state implements WIOA to align with Oklahoma Works, it is vital that more dollars are available and used for direct training. By creating planning regions that share administrative costs among local areas, more resources can be prioritized toward training individuals for the state's most in-demand occupations, thereby enhancing our efforts enhancing wealth-creation for all Oklahomans and providing the qualified workforce our businesses need to prosper.

Sincerely,



Mary Fallin
Governor

