

**WASHINGTON STATE
WORKFORCE TRAINING AND EDUCATION COORDINATING BOARD
MEETING NO. 118
MAY 15, 2007**

**LOCAL AREA PLANS
FOR THE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM**

Executive Order 99-02 directs Washington State Workforce Development Councils (WDCs), in partnership with Chief Local Elected Officials (CLEO), to develop two local area plans:

1. An Operations Plan for programs and services funded under Title I-B of the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) and the Wagner-Peyser Act.
2. A Strategic Plan for the workforce development system.

In October 2005, Governor Chris Gregoire, at the recommendation of the Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board (Workforce Board), approved the 2005-2007 local plans.

The current local plans will expire on June 30, 2007. In the last eight months, all 12 WDCs worked with their CLEOs and community partners to develop new 2007-2009 plans. The WDCs updated their WIA Operations Plans following guidelines issued by the Employment Security Department (ESD). The WDCs updated their local area Strategic Plans following guidelines adopted by the Workforce Board on November 16, 2006.

The Workforce Board is responsible for reviewing the local plans for consistency with *High Skills, High Wages 2006* and recommending to Governor Gregoire whether or not the local plans should be approved. On November 16, 2007, the Board adopted its plan review process. The Board delegated the review of the local plans to Workforce Board and ESD staff.

Staff recommendations on ten local area Strategic Plans are included on page 3 under this tab. Note: In March 2007, the Governor selected the Pacific Mountain WDC and the Northwest WDC to apply for federal WIRED III funding. For this reason, these two WDCs were given a time extension to complete their area's Strategic Plan. The Board will take action on these two strategic plans and the twelve local area WIA Operations Plans at its June 28, 2007 meeting. Also note that the Southwest Washington WDC is beginning an extensive public engagement process to develop a new area Strategic Plan with a 2008 effective date. For this reason, this Council submitted a single-year Strategic Plan for the period of July 1, 2007, through June 30, 2008.

Later in the year, local plans will incorporate performance targets. The Board sets local area WIA Title I-B performance targets based on state targets (previously adopted by the Board and the U.S. Department of Labor). The Board adjusts the targets for local economic conditions and demographics of program participants and negotiates with the twelve local areas to establish the performance targets for each area. The negotiation process to establish targets for years seven and eight (July 1, 2007, through June 30, 2009) will begin after state negotiations with the U.S. Department of Labor are complete. Once the targets are established, each WDC will incorporate the targets into their Strategic Plan for Workforce Development.

Board Action Required: Adoption of the Recommended Motion.

RECOMMENDED MOTION

WHEREAS, Executive Order 99-02 directs Workforce Development Councils, in partnership with Chief Local Elected Officials, to develop and maintain a local area Strategic Plan for the Workforce Development System; and

WHEREAS, Workforce Development Councils have adopted new, 2007-2009 plans to establish strategic direction for the local area's workforce development system; and

WHEREAS, Staff of the Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board and the Employment Security Department completed a review of ten local area strategic plans, determined the plans to be complete, consistent with *High Skills, High Wages 2006: Washington's Strategic Plan for Workforce Development*, and recommend plan approval; and

WHEREAS, Executive Order 99-02 directs the Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board to:

Review the plans of local workforce development councils for consistency with the state unified plan and recommend to the Governor whether or not local plans should be approved

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, The Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board recommends Governor approval of nine local area Strategic Plans for a two-year period and the Southwest Washington Workforce Development Council Strategic Plan for a one year period.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That once years seven and eight targets are established, the Workforce Development Councils will incorporate the targets into their area's 2007-2009 Local Area Strategic Plan for Workforce Development.

2007-2009 Local Area Strategic Plans for the Workforce Development System

Summary of Workforce Board and ESD Staff Review

The following 10 Workforce Development Councils (WDCs), in consultation with Chief Local Elected Officials (CLEOs), adopted new Strategic Plans for their area's Workforce Development System:

Benton-Franklin WDC (*Benton and Franklin Counties*)
Eastern Washington Partnership WDC (*Ferry, Stevens, Pend Orielle, Lincoln, Whitman, Garfield, Asotin, Columbia, and Walla Walla Counties*)
North Central WDC (*Chelan, Douglas, Okanogan, Grant, and Adams Counties*)
South Central WDC (*Skamania, Yakima, Kittitas, and Klickitat*)
Olympic WDC (*Clallam, Kitsap, and Jefferson Counties*)
Seattle-King County (*King County*)
Tacoma-Pierce County WDC (*Pierce County*)
Snohomish County WDC (*Snohomish County*)
Spokane Area WDC (*Spokane County*)
Southwest Washington WDC (*Cowlitz, Wahkiakum, and Clark Counties*)

These 10 WDCs submitted strategic plans that:

- Articulate a vision for the local area's workforce development system.
- Made use of a planning process that assured opportunities for business, labor, CLEOs, program operators, WorkSource partner agencies, and others to communicate their needs, offer their perspectives and expertise, and participate in the process.
- Include background chapters that: 1) assess the local area economy, its future course, and the market-driven skills it will demand; 2) analyze local area economic development strategies and how workforce development strategies are linked to economic development strategies; 3) assess the current and future workforce in the local area (demographic characteristics, educational and literacy levels, and planning implications); 4) describe the workforce development system in the local area; and 5) provide information on performance accountability.
- Present goals, objectives, and strategies for the workforce development system.

These local area strategies represent the priorities of the WDC and its partners. The plans describe strategies to increase skill levels, employment, earnings, productivity, customer satisfaction, reduce poverty, and increase the return on workforce development investments in the area. Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board (Workforce Board) staff determined that all 10 of the local area plans present goals, objectives, and strategies that are aligned and consistent with *High Skills, High Wages 2006: Washington's Strategic Plan for Workforce Development*.

- Include a written assurance that negotiated Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Title I-B performance targets will be part of the local area plan. Once WIA Title I-B performance targets are negotiated with the Workforce Board, the WDCs will incorporate the targets into their area's 2007-2009 local area Strategic Plan for Workforce Development.

Workforce Board and Employment Security Department Staff Recommendation: The 10 plans are useful contemporary guides. Approval of the motion is recommended.