

**WASHINGTON STATE
WORKFORCE TRAINING AND EDUCATION COORDINATING BOARD
MEETING NO. 190
AUGUST 17, 2015**

POTENTIAL WORKFORCE BOARD 2016 LEGISLATIVE REQUESTS

The Office of Financial Management (OFM) recently provided direction to state agencies about the requirements for agency request legislation. Policy requests are due September 21, 2015. The date for budget requests has not been set, but the expectation is on or around October 1, 2015. Board staff will have identified several areas where the Workforce Board may choose to request legislation or budget items.

WIOA Technical Amendments to RCW

State statute includes a number of references to the Workforce Investment Act (WIA). The attached chart lists the specific references to WIA and where updates may be necessary to specify the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA).

Budget Request: Perkins Match Funds

The Workforce Board receives funding from the federal Perkins grant for administrative costs. Perkins administrative funds require a dollar to dollar match of non-federal funds. Cuts to the agency budget from both federal and non-federal sources over the past few years have created a situation where the Board has very limited funds available to match this appropriation to the extent necessary. Turning back these funds can jeopardize the full state award of approximately \$20 million (USDOE is able to utilize this provision if states do not meet their match obligation, although they have not done so to date with any state that has fallen short). Fiscal staff estimates that a request of between \$50,000 and \$75,000 would allow the Board to access the funds needed to fully operate the program. The full amount available is \$420,000, but funds have a 27 month life span and the remainder can be carried forward into subsequent fiscal years.

Budget Request: Veteran Administration (VA) Contract

The Workforce Board acts as an approving agency for workforce education and training programs which veterans can access using their VA benefits. The State Approving Agency designation is funded by the US Department of Veterans Affairs (USDVA). USDVA funds salaries, benefits, and travel, and only a portion of administration and overhead costs. States are expected to support the additional costs of operating this program with non-federal funds. The contract between the VA and the Board has remained static for many years. As fuel costs and salary and benefit costs rise, the amount available to cover administration in the contract has been reduced by USDVA to maintain a static bottom line. The additional cost for the program above the contracted amount is now approximately \$50,000 annually.

Board staff will provide a brief overview of the requests at the August Board meeting, and will come back to the Board with specific drafts and any additions or changes at the September meeting for final approval. If the Board chooses to pursue these requests, they will be submitted to the Office of Financial Management and Governor's Office for approval no later than the September 21, 2015 deadline.

Recommended Action: For discussion only.