

**WASHINGTON STATE  
WORKFORCE TRAINING AND EDUCATION COORDINATING BOARD  
MEETING NO. 158  
NOVEMBER 17, 2011**

**NEW STATE PLAN FOR THE  
WORKFORCE INVESTMENT ACT AND WAGNER-PEYSER ACT**

The current *State Plan for the Workforce Investment Act (WIA)* and *Wagner-Peyser Act* expires on June 30, 2012. The U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) will issue final instructions in early January 2012, on the required elements for a new five-year state plan. The plan will need to be written, shared for public comment, approved by the Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board (Workforce Board), then approved by the Governor, and submitted to the Secretary of the DOL in the spring of 2012. States must have approved State Plans in place to receive formula allotments under WIA and funding allocations under the Wagner-Peyser Act. DOL has issued “draft” plan development guidelines that offer a picture of DOL’s expectations. The draft guidelines give states a choice of two plan development options:

1. States may choose to write an “Integrated Workforce Plan.” This plan would cover the Youth, Adult, and Dislocated Worker grants under WIA Title I-B and the Wagner-Peyser Act services. The plan could also include other DOL-funded programs such as Veterans Programs and Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA). DOL’s instructions for this option are straightforward (21 pages) with three required sections. DOL will allow states who already have a State Workforce Strategic Plan such as *High Skills, High Wages: Washington’s Strategic Plan for Workforce Development* to reference such a plan in Section I rather than duplicating it.

Or

2. States may choose to write a “Unified Plan.” Presented in 125 pages of instructions, DOL offers state partner agencies the ability to submit a single five-year plan covering up to 13 federal programs administered by five federal agencies (see Attachment A). In Washington these 13 programs are administered by seven state agencies.

DOL’s schedule leaves very little time for state partners to write the next five-year plan. The Workforce Board will not meet again until January 27, 2012. For this reason, staff recommend that the Workforce Board take action on November 17, 2011, to request that appropriate representatives from the Employment Security Department, the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges, the Department of Services for the Blind, the Department of Social and Health Services (including the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation), the Department of Commerce, Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, and the Workforce Board meet to consider the two plan development options, settle on the choice of options, and then move forward expeditiously. On January 27, 2012, the Workforce Board would hear a report from state partners on their plan writing progress, and the timeline for bringing a completed plan before the Board for approval.

**Board Action Requested:** Adoption of the recommended motion.

## **RECOMMENDED MOTION**

**WHEREAS**, the U.S. Department of Labor requires governors to submit, in the spring of 2012, a new plan outlining a five-year strategy for their state's workforce investment system;

**WHEREAS**, Washington's final plan must be approved by the Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board after a sufficient period of public comment;

**WHEREAS**, final instructions from the U.S. Department of Labor on the required components of the plan are not expected until early January 2012; and

**WHEREAS**, state partners will need to proceed expeditiously in making decisions about plan options and in getting started in writing the plan;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board requests that appropriate representatives from the state agencies in Washington's workforce development system meet to consider plan options, settle on the choice of plan options, and report their plan writing progress to the Board on January 27, 2012.

## ATTACHMENT A

### **Federal Programs That May be Included in a State Unified Plan**

1. Secondary and Postsecondary Career and Technical Education programs under the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act (U.S. Department of Education).
2. Youth, Adult, and Dislocated Workers grants under Title I-B of WIA (U.S. DOL).
3. Adult and Family Literacy Programs (U.S. Department of Education).
4. Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) formally known as Food Stamp Employment and Training Program (FSET) (U.S. Department of Agriculture).
5. Trade Adjustment Assistance (U.S. DOL).
6. Wagner-Peyser Act (U.S. DOL).
7. Vocational Rehabilitation under Title I of the Rehabilitation Act (U.S. Department of Education).
8. Veterans programs and services (U.S. DOL).
9. Programs authorized under state unemployment compensation laws (U.S. DOL).
10. Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services).
11. Senior Community Service Employment Program (U.S. DOL Labor).
12. Training activities funded by Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).
13. Community Services Block Grant (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services).