

# WIOA REGIONAL PLANNING OPTIONS

*This guide presents background on regional planning and the possible regional planning configurations that Washington could designate, based on data reviewed by Board staff. These options range from the proposed Regions map introduced at the September WIOA Steering Committee meeting to a regions map congruent with the established 12 workforce development councils.*

<u>REGIONAL CONFIGURATION GROUND RULES</u>	<u>DATA FACTORS CONSIDERED WHEN CONFIGURING REGIONS</u>
<p><b>1. <u>Must consist of complete local workforce development areas (WDAs)</u></b> <i>Cannot split WDAs across regions.</i></p> <p><b>2. <u>Regions may only contain contiguous WDAs.</u></b> <i>This is because regions are about leveraging local assets like industry clusters, population centers, etc.</i></p> <p><b>3. <u>Geographic (physical) boundaries may be considered when identifying regions</u></b> <i>E.g. mountain ranges, large bodies of water between WDCs, etc.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Labor sheds</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Population centers – Metropolitan Statistical Areas published by the Office of Management and Budget based on analysis of census data</li> <li>▪ Commute patterns - US Census Longitudinal Employment and Household Dynamics (LEHD) data</li> <li>▪ Industry concentration – Location quotients derived from Bureau of Labor Statistics and 2014 Washington State Quarterly Census of Employment and Wage records</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ <b>Economic regions</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Federal Economic Development Districts identified by the federal Economic Development Administration</li> <li>▪ Regional Transportation Planning Organizations and Districts, as identified by WSDOT data</li> <li>▪ Metro Planning Organizations, as identified by WSDOT data</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ <b>Sufficient resources to carry out the requirements of Title I of WIOA</b> – since regions consist of local areas which must have sufficient resources to carry out Title I of WIOA in order to be designated as areas, regions have the resources to carry out Title I of WIOA by default.</li> <li>○ <b>Geography</b> and topography</li> <li>○ <b>Alignment to the Governor’s identified sectors</b> – Location quotients derived from Bureau of Labor Statistics and 2014 Washington State Quarterly Census of Employment and Wage records</li> <li>○ <b>Locally prioritized industry sectors</b> – based on a survey of WDCs</li> <li>○ <b>Locally initiated regional planning efforts</b> – based on a survey of WDCs</li> </ul>

## WHAT IS REQUIRED IN A REGIONAL PLAN?

*The State Board and ESD view regional planning “as a work in progress” and do not assume that newly formed workforce regions will have fully developed strategies for all regional planning elements. (from State Workforce Board Guidance on Local/Regional Plans)*

<b>WIOA § 106(c): Local boards and CLEOs in a planning region shall engage in a regional planning process that results in...</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The preparation of a <b>regional plan</b></li> <li>▪ The establishment of <b>regional service strategies</b>, including use of cooperative service delivery agreements</li> <li>▪ The development and implementation of <b>sector initiatives</b> for in-demand industry sectors or occupations for the region</li> <li>▪ The collection and analysis of <b>regional labor market data</b> (in conjunction with the State)</li> <li>▪ The establishment of <b>administrative cost arrangements</b>, including the pooling of funds for administrative costs, <u>as appropriate</u>, for the region</li> <li>▪ The <b>coordination of transportation and other supportive services</b>, <u>as appropriate</u>, for the region</li> <li>▪ The <b>coordination of services with regional economic development</b> services and providers</li> <li>▪ The establishment of an agreement concerning how the planning region will collectively <b>negotiate...on local levels of performance</b> for local areas in the planning region</li> </ul>

## TIMELINE OF REGIONAL PLANNING DECISIONS

Date	Activity
<b>Oct 2014</b>	Governor’s letter asks for a “data driven recommendation” regarding workforce regions in consultation with WDCs, LEOs and others.
<b>Feb-Mar 2015</b>	Local Governance & Sector (LG&S) Subcommittee clarifies federal expectations for regions and gets an overview of tri-state regional data. LG&S considers data from tri-state regional data tool.
<b>April 6, 2015</b>	LG&S recommends sending a letter to CLEOs and WDCs to begin consultation regarding regions. Proposed federal guidance clarifies the requirement to develop policy for the identification of regions and lists possible factors to be considered.
<b>May 4, 2015</b>	LG&S approves a letter asking CLEOs and WDCs which factors to consider in identifying regions, the challenges and opportunities regions present and whether there are any regions that should be considered.
<b>May 5, 2015</b>	Steering Committee approves letter and recommends it to WTECB.
<b>May 28, 2015</b>	WTECB approves letter. Letter sent to WDCs and CLEOs.
<b>June 30, 2015</b>	WDCs & CLEOs recommend factors for the identification of regions. Eleven of twelve ask to be identified as regions. One area asks to maintain its area designation while being included in a Central Puget Sound Economic region.
<b>July 14, 2015</b>	6 WDCs, labor, business, Governor’s Office, and staff hold a 6 hour regions task force meeting and unanimously recommend language for the regions policy.
<b>July 27, 2015</b>	LG&S unanimously approves policy language.
<b>July 28, 2015</b>	Steering Committee approves policy language with one “no” vote. Steering Committee agrees that the next step is for staff develop a regions map for input.
<b>Aug 17, 2015</b>	WTECB unanimously agrees to the regions policy language.
<b>Aug 21, 2015</b>	ESD staff submit policy for 2 weeks of public comment.
<b>Early Sept</b>	Regions policy finalized after consideration of public comment. Staff develops a regional proposal based on policy.
<b>Sept 8, 2015</b>	Steering Committee where map was to be presented is cancelled. Staff continue to review data to complete a proposal.
<b>Sept 17, 2015</b>	Map presented to WTECB, starting 30 day public vetting process. WTECB asks WDCs, CLEOs and others to respond by Oct 17. A special WTECB meeting is scheduled to review feedback and approve a regions map.
<b>Oct 8, 2015</b>	Steering Committee asks to provide a recommendation on regions to WTECB at its November 10 meeting.
<b>Oct 21, 2015</b>	WTECB holds special meeting and agrees to wait for a Steering Committee recommendation on regions.
<b>Nov. 10, 2015</b>	Steering committee to recommend regions to WTECB.
<b>Nov 17, 2015</b>	WTECB to make a final recommendation re: regions to Governor. Governor has 15 days to respond.
<b>Nov. 30, 2015</b>	Governor approves or modifies regions recommendation. State begins working on regional data for state and regional plans.