



## Idaho Workforce Development Council

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# Idaho Policy for Identification of Regions under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Adopted January 13, 2016

**Reference:** WIOA Section 106(a); TEGL 27-14; WIOA NPRM §679.210

### **Purpose:**

As directed by U.S. Department of Labor Training and Employment Guidance Letter 27-14, the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014 requires the Governor, in consultation with the State Board, to identify regions in the submission of the WIOA Combined State Plan.

### **Definitions:**

**Local Area** – The purpose of a local area is to serve as a jurisdiction for the administration of workforce development activities and execution of workforce investment funds allocated by the State. (NPRM Sec. 679.220)

**Region or Planning Region** – Consists of one or more local areas. May consist of local areas within a state or a combination of local areas across state borders. (WIOA Sec. 3)

**Service Delivery Area** – Areas within the local areas that are designated for providing workforce investment activities. These are referred to as substate regions in Idaho.

### **Types of Regions**

- Regions comprised of one local area that is aligned with the region.
- Regions comprised of two or more contiguous local areas that are collectively aligned with the region (referred to as planning regions)
- Regions comprised of two or more contiguous local areas in two or more states. (also referred to as planning regions)

Regions are subject to the regional planning requirements NPRM §679.510 which include submission of a regional plan, developing service delivery and cost-sharing strategies, and negotiating regional performance measures.

### **Background:**

On the October 19, 2015 Workforce Development Council meeting, the council approved the two local areas from WIA for initial designation under WIOA. These local areas are the East-Central District and the Balance

of State. Each of these local areas is eligible to be its own region or may be assigned to a single region consisting of both local areas. Under WIA, Idaho was designated a single statewide planning region.

## **Policy**

The Governor must assign local areas to a region prior to the submission of the State Combined Plan in order for the State to receive WIOA title I-B adult, dislocated worker and youth allotments.

Governor must develop a policy and process for identifying regions in consultation with the Workforce Development Council and chief local elected officials. The policy must be evaluate the local areas in the proposed region considering the following criteria.

- Share a single labor market
- Share a common economic development area
- Possess federal and nonfederal resources, including appropriate education and training institutions to administer activities under WIOA subtitle B.

The Governor may also consider the following factors.

- Population centers
- Commuting patterns
- Land ownership
- Industrial composition
- Location quotients
- Labor force conditions
- Geographic boundaries
- Additional factors as determined by the Secretary of Labor

For the purpose of this policy, total federal allocations for WIOA title I-B resources below \$15,000,000 are insufficient to administer activities to support multiple regions. As long as federal resources remain below \$15,000,000, the state will be identified as a single, statewide planning region.

## **Process**

When federal allocations for WIOA title I-B exceed \$15,000,000 (in 2015 dollars), the Workforce Development Council may convene a committee of representatives around the state, including chief local elected officials to make recommendations on the identification of regions. The committee will solicit and analyze labor market information based on the criteria listed above to inform their decisions. The Governor shall have final authority over the identification of regions.