

Northwest Workforce Council Waiver Request Overview

PRESENTER NAME: Eric Wolf

BOARD MEETING DATE: 3/23/17

BOARD MEMBER SPONSOR NAME: Perry England

TIME ALLOTTED:-30 minutes

<p>ISSUE/SITUATION: Be concise - 1 or 2 sentences that get to the heart of the situation, problem or opportunity being addressed.</p>	<p>THE ISSUE/OPPORTUNITY IS:</p> <p>Northwest Workforce Council has submitted an application to be the Career Services provider in their local area and to forego competitive procurement of such services, in compliance with System Policy #5404 (Procurement and Selection of One-Stop Operators and Service Providers).</p> <p>The application was discussed by the Board at its March 8, 2017 meeting. A copy of the application was included in the March 8th Board packet and can also be accessed at http://wtb.wa.gov/March8agenda.asp</p> <p>Action on the request is anticipated at this Board meeting.</p>
<p>TAP STRATEGIC PRIORITY: Which TAP strategic priority or priorities does this recommendation support? Can you tie to specific goals and objectives in TAP? Briefly describe these connections. If the connection is unclear, describe why this is of consequence to the Workforce Board and/or workforce system.</p>	<p>SUPPORTS TAP STRATEGIC PRIORITY:</p> <p>This request falls under the TAP goal of Improving the Customer Experience – streamlining the delivery of services.</p>
<p>POTENTIAL IMPACT: Effect on people, businesses, communities. What is better or different from other existing strategies?</p>	<p>IT IS SIGNIFICANT BECAUSE:</p> <p>The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) allows Governors to grant local workforce development areas waivers from undergoing competitive procurement for certain operations and services, including adult and dislocated career services. The Board is responsible for relaying a recommendation to the Governor after reviewing application materials submitted under System Policy #5404.</p>
<p>OPTIMAL NEXT STEPS: What do you really want to happen as a result of this discussion with the Workforce Board?</p>	<p>MY IDEAL OUTCOME OF THIS DISCUSSION IS:</p> <p>Northwest Workforce Council has provided all of the appropriate and required documentation in support of this request. Additional information sought by the Board at their March 8, 2017 meeting regarding Northwest Workforce Council's process to identify other service providers in their community has been supplied by the Council and is attached.</p> <p>The Board will discuss the application's compliance with System Policy #5404 and will transmit a recommendation to the Governor on its status.</p>



<p>BACKGROUND: Short history of how this recommendation came to be. What has been tried, to what result? What evidence exists to support this recommendation?</p>	<p>RELEVANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION:</p> <p>WorkSource System Policy #5404 governs the process local workforce development councils must undergo to obtain a waiver to provide adult and dislocated worker career services “in-house” and without a competitive procurement process. “Career services” encompasses a vast list of possible services, including initial assessment of skill levels, labor exchange services, providing information and assistance on filing claims for unemployment compensation, and assistance in establishing eligibility for financial aid. Career services include the development of a participant’s individual employment plan and identification of the appropriate blend of services for the participant to achieve their employment goals.</p> <p>The policy for Procurement of Career Services reads:</p> <p>A. Local Workforce Development Boards (LWDB) are encouraged to select providers of career services through a competitive procurement process, though WIOA law and proposed rules do not require this. Allowable forms of competitive procurement include sealed bid, competitive proposals, and sole source.</p> <p>B. LWDBs can provide basic and individualized career services by agreement of the local Chief Elected Official and Governor. LWDBs must complete Attachment C (Request for Approval to Provide WIOA Basic and/or Individualized Career Services) and submit it to the State Workforce Development Board (SWDB).</p> <p>Attachment C requires waiver applicants to detail:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The factors that went into the LWDB’s decision to submit the request, including factors that led the Local Workforce Development Council (LWDC) to believe that participants will be better served by providing services directly; 2. The career services the LWDB plans to provide, including their prior experience in providing those services; 3. The local area’s state and federal performance outcomes, cost per participant, and cost per employment for their programs in each of the past five years, with a comparison to other local areas in the state; 4. Evidence that the LWDB is qualified to provide career services, including local testimonials that speak to the effectiveness and efficiency with which the LWDC has provided or can provide those services. <p>Additionally, waiver applicants must obtain letters in support of their application from their local boards and the Chief Local Elected Official in the area.</p> <p>Northwest Workforce Council has submitted a letter of request, and all appropriate documentation, as well as letters of support and the appropriate signatures from the Board Chair and Chief Local Elected Official.</p> <p>WorkSource System Policy #5404 also gives the state Workforce Board the ability to request local Workforce Development Councils document, in writing, efforts to identify the availability of service providers in their area. All of this documentation must be maintained and provided to the State upon request.</p> <p>Northwest Workforce Council provided the following response to the Board’s request:</p> <p>“Although the WIOA law and rules do not require LWDB to go through a competitive process before making their request to be provider of WIOA Title IB Basic and Individualized Career Services, the NWC did review and did not identify any other entities with a track record of providing similar</p>
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	<p>career services throughout the four counties in the region before the Board and the local Chief Elected Official submitted their request for approval. Additionally, the NWC had just concluded an extensive competitive procurement process, using an impartial third party, to identify a provider of similar services to young adults 16 to 24 years of age. There were no other entities that submitted a proposal in response to the procurement.</p> <p>Additional Factors that went into the LWDB’s decision can be found in the Attachment C, Request for Approval to Provide WIOA Basic and Individualized Career Services Section 1, pages one (1) through three (3) that was submitted.”</p> <p>Representatives of Northwest Workforce Council will join the Board discussion at the March 23 Board meeting.</p>
<p>STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT, PROS AND CONS: Which stakeholders have been engaged in the development of this recommendation? What are the pros and cons of this recommendation? According to whom (which stakeholder groups)? Are there viable alternatives to consider?</p>	<p>STAKEHOLDERS HAVE PROVIDED INPUT AND THEY THINK:</p> <p>When the policy was developed, this method of requesting approval as the provider for career services went through standard policy approval processes, including public comment. This policy became effective on May 10, 2016.</p>
<p>FINANCIAL ANALYSIS AND IMPACT: What will it cost to enact this recommendation? What resources will be used? Are new resources required? How much? Where will existing or new resources come from? Are there savings to be gained from this investment? Over what period? Are there other returns on investment to consider?</p>	<p>THE COST AND RESOURCE NEEDS OF THIS RECOMMENDATION ARE:</p> <p>The costs and resources are strictly at the local area, and the documentation submitted indicates that this waiver will be a cost-savings for the Workforce Development Council.</p>



<p>RECOMMENDATION AND NEXT STEPS: What specific result do you want from the Board? Is this recommendation for discussion or action? If for discussion, will action be required at a later date? What next steps are expected after this discussion?</p>	<p>THE RECOMMENDATION AND/OR REQUESTED ACTION IS: Recommend approval by the Governor.</p>
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