

**WASHINGTON STATE  
WORKFORCE TRAINING AND EDUCATION COORDINATING BOARD  
MEETING NO. 187  
May 28, 2015**

**WORKFORCE INVESTMENT ACT PERFORMANCE TARGETS**

**Background**

Although the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) largely takes effect in July of this year, the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) performance measurement system remains in effect until July 2016. Therefore, performance targets for the upcoming year (PY15) have to be negotiated using the WIA Common Measures rules and procedures, first with the Workforce Development Councils (WDCs) and then with the Department of Labor. State proposals to the U.S. Department of Labor (USDOL) are due at the end of May.

Weekly phone conferences have been held with WDC staff from April into May. Those discussions achieved a balance between WDC concerns and the need to have a defensible starting position for negotiations. Other than the very uneven recovery of the labor market from recession levels, the most notable expected influence on performance measures is the impact of revised GED examinations. At least in the short term, there is an ongoing reduction in GED attainment rates.

The draft performance targets have been available for public review and comment for the past week.

A parallel negotiation takes place for the same performance measures for the Wagner-Peyser program, for which Employment Security Department staff have determined target levels to be proposed to DoL. Those levels are shown in the accompanying table for comparison purposes.

**Requested Action:** The Workforce Board adopt the proposed PY15 WIA performance targets for submittal to the Department of Labor.

**DRAFT PROPOSAL TO U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR**

<b>Proposed PY 15 Targets for Federal Performance Measures</b>		<b>Most Recent Performance Report</b>	<b>Draft WIA Targets for PY 2015</b>
<b>WIA - Adult</b>	Entered Employment	75.1%	75.1%
	Employment Retention	83.2%	83.2%
	Average Earnings - 6 months	\$14,185	\$14,185
<b>WIA - Dislocated Worker</b>	Entered Employment	78.9%	79.4%
	Employment Retention	89.3%	89.4%
	Average Earnings - 6 months	\$20,206	\$19,807
<b>WIA - Youth</b>	Placement: Work or Education	61.3%	62.5%
	Credential Attainment	64.8%	61.6%
	Literacy/Numeracy: Improvement	53.1%	50.5%
<b>Employment Services - Wagner-Peyser Act</b>	Entered Employment	62%	60.5%
	Employment Retention	82%	82.0%
	Average Earnings - 6 months	\$15,502	\$15,550

**RECOMMENDED MOTION**

**WHEREAS**, One of the responsibilities of the Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board is to negotiate with the U.S. Department of Labor, on behalf of the Governor, to determine the performance targets for Workforce Investment Act programs in Washington; and

**WHEREAS**, the target-setting procedures from the Workforce Investment Act remain in effect during the first year of implementation of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA); and

**WHEREAS**, It is the practice of the Workforce Board to use both analysis and negotiation with the Workforce Development Councils in developing targets to be proposed to the U.S. Department of Labor; and

**WHEREAS**, Workforce Board staff negotiated proposed targets with Workforce Development Councils based on recent U.S. Department of Labor guidance, current performance and prior target levels in preparing draft proposed performance targets; and,

**WHEREAS**, The Employment Security Department staff have been kept informed in the process of target development; and

**WHEREAS**, there has been an opportunity for public review and comment of the proposed performance level;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, The Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board accepts the proposed Workforce Investment Act performance targets for Program Year 2015 and authorizes Board staff to negotiate with the U.S. Department of Labor based on these proposed levels.

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**ELIGIBLE TRAINING PROVIDER LIST RECOMMENDATION TO GOVERNOR ON  
GRANDFATHERING OF WIA-APPROVED TRAINING PROVIDER LIST**

**Background**

Washington was one of the few states that proactively implemented an Eligible Training Provider List (ETPL) process under the Workforce Investment Act (WIA), rather than seeking a waiver of that requirement.

The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) revises and expands on the WIA requirements for state ETPL systems. WIOA also allows governors in states with existing ETPL systems to “grandfather” training programs approved under WIA for an initial period, up to December 31, 2015.

WIOA also authorizes the Governor to establish transition procedures during the implementation period.

Given the many details of WIOA still in flux, and substantial demands of WIOA implementation on staff and analytic resources, and that Washington has a long-established and respected ETPL system, staff believes that the grandfathering option appears to be advisable.

This recommendation has been discussed with and approved by the WIOA Subcommittee on Performance Accountability and ETPL.

**Action Requested:** Workforce Board recommendation to the Governor to elect to grandfather all WIA-approved eligible training programs until December 31, 2015, or until any earlier date for some or all of those programs as determined under transition policies that the Board may recommend and the Governor may adopt.

**RECOMMENDED MOTION**

**Workforce Board recommendation to Governor Inslee to extend current eligibility to WIA-approved eligible training programs until December 31, 2015.**

**WHEREAS**, the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act modified several aspects of the Eligible Training Provider List (ETPL) systems developed under the Workforce Investment Act, and

**WHEREAS**, neither final regulations nor additional necessary draft implementation guidelines for those modifications have yet been issued, and

**WHEREAS**, planning and implementation of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act involves substantial workload for the policy and analytic staff of the Workforce Board and its partner agencies; and

**WHEREAS**, Washington’s existing ETPL system is acknowledged as one of the best in the nation, and

**WHEREAS**, the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act allows governors to establish transition policies for ETPL systems during implementation, and

**WHEREAS**, the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act allows governors the option of extending the eligibility of training providers previously found eligible under WIA rules for up to six months past July 1 of 2015,

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, The Board recommends that the Governor elect to extend current eligibility to all WIA-approved eligible training programs until December 31, 2015, or until any earlier date for some or all of those programs, as determined under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act transition policies that the Board may recommend and the Governor may adopt.

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**ELIGIBLE TRAINING PROVIDER LIST  
FORGOING ANNUAL UPDATE OF ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA AND REVIEW**

**Background**

Current Workforce Board policy and practice calls for revision of our Eligible Training Provider List (ETPL) eligibility standards every year in the spring/summer, and review of the updated performance of all current programs to see if they still meet criteria. The three most recent years of performance data are averaged for this purpose.

Given the workload of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) performance measures and the requirement to develop new ETPL standards and procedures by December 31, 2015 at the latest, developing new WIOA performance accountability systems and other analytic support for WIOA implementation appears to have a higher priority than updating Workforce Investment Act (WIA) ETPL standards that would not be in effect for more than six months.

This recommendation has been discussed with and approved by the WIOA Subcommittee on Performance Accountability and ETPL. The Subcommittee requested that the Board staff incorporate a risk assessment to identify for early review any training programs that might be at particular risk of no longer meeting existing (2014) performance standards.

**Action:** The Workforce Board will be asked to approve maintaining existing performance standards until new WIOA processes and/or standards are developed. Further, Board staff will be assigned to include a risk assessment and early review process in developing transition processes and standards.

**RECOMMENDED MOTION:**

**Workforce Board approval to maintain current eligibility of WIA-approved eligible training programs until December 31, 2015.**

**WHEREAS**, current practice is for Workforce Board staff to annually develop updated eligibility criteria for training providers to serve participants in Workforce Investment Act (WIA) programs, to obtain Board review and approval of updated criteria, and to review and re-establish eligibility for several thousand training programs, and

**WHEREAS**, the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) revises several aspects of the requirements for Eligible Training Provider List systems developed under WIA, and

**WHEREAS**, neither final regulations nor additional necessary draft implementation guidelines for WIOA-required modifications have yet been issued, and

**WHEREAS**, due to WIOA implementation requirements, eligibility based on the WIA-defined system can be extended until December 31st of this year;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, The Board approves maintaining existing performance standards for Eligible Training Providers, until new WIOA-based processes and standards are developed. Further, the Board approves deferring eligibility review of currently eligible providers to new processes to be developed under WIOA guidelines, except in cases identified by staff through risk assessment.