

Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act
Colorado Implementation Activities
Planning Regions
March 5, 2015

WIOA calls for the creation of “Planning Regions” within each state. Colorado must identify planning regions that can fulfill the requirements outlined in the law for the submission of a regional plan. Regional planning must be done in alignment with the state and local plans. The details and references related to these requirements are as follows.

Section 101—*State Workforce Development Boards*, lists as one of the required functions of the state board “the identification of regions, including planning regions, for the purposes of section 106(a).”

Section 106(a) stipulates that a State shall identify regions in the State...consistent with these considerations:

The extent to which regions are:

- Consistent with labor market areas in the state
- Consistent with regional economic development areas in the state
- Have available federal and non-federal resources necessary to effectively administer activities under subtitle B and other applicable provision of this Act, including whether the areas have the appropriate institutions of higher education and area career and technical education schools

Section 106(a) further stipulates that planning regions may be comprised of:

- One local area aligned with the region
- Two or more local areas aligned with the region
- Interstate areas contained within two or more states

Section 106(c) outlines that after planning regions are identified, the boards and chief elected officials shall engage in a regional planning process that results in:

- (A) The preparation of a regional plan, as described in paragraph (2);
- (B) The establishment of regional service strategies, including use of cooperative service delivery agreements;
- (C) The development and implementation of sector initiatives for in-demand industry sectors or occupations for the region;

- (D) The collection and analysis of regional labor market data (in conjunction with the State);
- (E) The establishment of administrative cost arrangements, including the pooling of funds for administrative costs, as appropriate, for the region;
- (F) The coordination of transportation and other supportive services, as appropriate, for the region;
- (G) The coordination of services with regional economic development services and providers; and
- (H) The establishment of an agreement concerning how the planning region will collectively negotiate and reach agreement with Governor on local levels of performance for, and report on, the performance accountability measures described in section 116(c), for local areas or the planning region.

A work group comprised of local workforce directors, CDLE staff, and CWDC staff has analyzed this issue and developed a proposed planning region map. The proposed map divides the state into five planning regions that best meets the criteria outlined in WIOA.

To complete the process of identifying planning regions, the following steps and timeline will take place.

March 10, 2015: The CWDC will review the recommendations and logic with the state office of economic development to ensure alignment with economic development regions.

March 20, 2015: The CWDC will review the proposal and affirm or suggest changes to be discussed with all local areas and partners.

March 24, 2015: The map will be shared with local elected officials, local workforce investment boards, regional economic development partnerships, state and local partners involved in the one-stop delivery system, and business and community leaders for comment by April 21, 2015.

April 28, 2015: The map will be posted on the CWDC web site and made available through other reasonable means for general public comment by May 19, 2015.

May 20, 2015: The CWDC Executive Committee will review comments and make a recommendation to the full Council for an electronic vote.

June 1, 2015: The CWDC will request approval of its recommendation by the Governor, along with the final map and a summary of the process and comments for review.

July 1, 2015: Regional planning procedures can begin within the new regions.

Proposed WIOA Planning Regions

○ Workforce Center Locations

