

Regional Planning Definitions and Procedures

Regional Planning and WIOA

Local Workforce Development Areas (LWDA) are to utilize the following interpretations of what the State requires. The State interprets each of these provisions of the Law. Wherever it refers to the “Act” or the “Law,” the State means the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), Public Law 113–128 and the federal regulations.

Regional Planning Eligibility

Missouri establishes the Greater Kansas City and Greater St. Louis Planning Regions.

- A Regional Plan must comprise the local planning areas of Kansas City and Vicinity and East Jackson County.
- A Regional Plan must comprise the local planning areas of the City of St. Louis, the County of Saint Louis, the County of St. Charles, and the Jefferson County–Franklin County Consortium, plus the two counties in Illinois—Madison and St. Clair.

Background

“WIOA Sec. 106(c) clearly describes the *contents* of a Regional Plan. The Office of Workforce Development (OWD) will apply the approval and modification requirements, including the requirement to seek public comment and sunshine provision, to the Regional Plan as it is incorporated into each respective LWDA.

“As provided in WIOA Sec. 107(d), the Local Board must:

- a) Develop and submit a 4-year Local Plan for the Local Area, in partnership with the Chief Elected Official and consistent with WIOA Sec. 108;
- b) If the Local Area is part of a Planning Region that includes other Local Areas, develop and submit a Regional Plan in collaboration with other Local Areas. If the Local Area is part of a Planning Region, the Local Plan must be submitted as a part of the Regional Plan; ...”

Missouri initially designated fourteen (14) LWDAs and Boards and will continue with these same designations. Each of the LWDAs must create a Local Plan. However, collaboration must occur within the Greater Kansas City and Greater St. Louis Planning Regions for the creation of two Regional Plans as established in the State Plan.

What is the purpose of Regional Planning?

In 20 CFR §679.510, “What are the requirements for regional planning?”

It serves as the four (4) year action plan to align service delivery, direct investments, apply job-driven strategies, and enable the building of a skilled workforce.

Local Boards in Regional Planning Areas to are required to participate in regional planning that results in the preparation of a single Regional Plan that includes:

Approving the Regional Plan

In 20 CFR §679.520, after submission to the state, a Regional Plan has automatic approval after 90 days, *unless* during that period the Governor determines that:

- a) Deficiencies in workforce investment activities appear in audits and a Local Area (i.e., any one of the regional partners) has not made acceptable progress to address those deficiencies;
- b) The Regional Plan does not comply with WIOA (such as not accommodating public comment);

This document accompanies OWD Issuance 09-2019 and is part of that guidance.

- c) The Regional Plan does not align with the State Plan (contrary or omitted objectives).

In 20 CFR §679.530, the Regional Plan must be modified (according to Missouri's modification procedures¹) and undergo a collective review within two years by the Boards, CEOs, and the economic regional partnership.

The review must reflect changes:

- 1) in the labor market and economic conditions; and
- 2) other factors affecting implementation of the plan, including financing available to support WIOA.

Regional Planning Outcomes/Deliverables

There are eight (8) of them, subdivided as (A) through (H). The State's Regional Plans will:

(A) contain each of the Local Plans within the regional planning area that meets the intent of the law.

(B) establish regional service strategies, including use of cooperative service-delivery agreements for service delivery; and

(C) develop and implement sector initiatives for in-demand industry sectors or occupations for the region; and

(D) include collection and analysis of regional labor-market data (in conjunction with the state) utilizing reports from [MERIC](#), as well as current regional economic analyses including but not limited to [Mid-America Regional Council](#) or [St Louis Community College](#), the LWDA shall utilize labor market data for the purpose of regional planning; and

(E) establish administrative cost arrangements, including the pooling of funds for administrative costs, as appropriate, in order to meet the Region's needs; and

(F) The Regional Plan will address the coordination of transportation and other Supportive Services, as appropriate, for the region; and must address how individuals will be served given differing local Supportive Services policies; and

(G) address the coordination of services with regional economic-development services and providers. Regional economic development services and providers have been, and will continue to be, a part of the sector-strategies engagement process. This means that regional planning efforts are either synchronized with, or supportive of, economic development services and providers. It also requires integrating workforce development plan strategies with the needs of economic development providers. Planning regions are encouraged, whenever possible, to attach letters of support from economic development providers to the Regional Plan as evidence of awareness and engagement with the sector strategies workforce development effort; and

(H) establish an agreement concerning how the planning region will collectively negotiate and reach agreement with the Governor on local levels of performance for, and report on, the performance-accountability measures described in section 116(c), for LWDA's or the planning region. As long as there is a collaboratively developed negotiation agreement for the Planning Region, the LWDA's may elect to negotiate performance separately. If LWDA's elect to have separate performance levels, the Regional Plan should state, "The Local Boards in this region elect to negotiate and report performance independently." However, performance levels may be combined, if **all** the LWDA's in the Planning Region agree to that approach.

¹ [OWD Issuance 06-2019](#), "Local Plan and Regional Plan Modifications Procedures," August 20, 2019 or any future revisions.

This document accompanies OWD Issuance 09-2019 and is part of that guidance.

Regional and Local Plan Contents

20 CFR §679.540 states that for all practical purposes, all regional planning undertaken under 20 CFR §679.510, also must incorporate all local planning requirements found in WIOA Sec.108(b)(1)–(22).

WIOA Sec. 106(c)(2) specifies that a Regional Plan “incorporates Local Plans for each of the LWDA’s in the Planning Region.”

- Individual LWDA’s will complete a Local Plan for each of their designated LWDA’s which will then be incorporated into the Regional Plan; and
- All Local Plans from LWDA’s within a Planning Region must contain the Regional Plan’s combined section and reference the separate LWDA local plans outside of their own LWDA to avoid duplication.

Submission Procedures:

This information should be used to develop regional planning documents for the Greater Kansas City Metropolitan Region and Greater St. Louis Metropolitan Region.

- These planning regions should submit Regional Plans to OWD **on or before Monday, March 16, 2020**, after the requisite 30-day period and procedure for public comment.
- Only one copy of the Regional Plan is submitted by the WIOA Planning Region.
- One LWDA should be designated to submit on behalf of the region.
- The LWDA CEOs, Chairs and LWDB Directors of the region must be identified in the cover letter of the Regional Plan.
- The regional plan agreement signatory page(s) should be included with the Regional Plan.
- The Regional Plan must include a copy of the Local Plan for each of the LWDA’s in the region.
- The Regional Plans must be submitted electronically in a Microsoft Word file (.docx) or Adobe portable document file (.pdf) to OWDLocalPlan@dhewd.mo.gov . The file must be less than 10MB. Multiple files may be submitted, but they must be submitted in sequential order and labeled 1 of X.

Review Process:

- OWD will review the Regional Plan within 90 days and a response will be sent to the CEO, Chair and LWDB Director that is designated as the submitter for the region.
- The CEOs, Chairs and LWDB Directors from participating LWDA’s will receive copies of correspondence.
- If deficiencies are found, they will need to be addressed before the plan will be approved.
- A final approval letter will be issued once all of the requirements are fulfilled and deficiencies are addressed. Final approved Regional Plans must be posted on the LWDB websites in the region.

Implementation:

Regional Plans should be implemented from PY20-PY23. Program Year 2020 begins July 1, 2020.