



STATE OF WASHINGTON
WORKFORCE TRAINING AND EDUCATION COORDINATING BOARD

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Tiffany Scott
Chief Executive Officer
Benton-Franklin Workforce Development Area
815 North Kellogg St. Suite C
Kennewick, WA 99336

RE: Submission of the Benton-Franklin Workforce Development Area's 2020-2023 Local Plan

Dear Director Scott:

Thank you for your timely submission of Benton-Franklin Workforce Development Area's Local Plan for Program Years 2020-2023. We congratulate you, your Board, and your partners for having completed your local planning process and look forward to reviewing your plan in the near future.

Initially, the state Workforce Board anticipated that all local workforce council plans would be submitted on April 15, 2020 and that a review process would be concluded by June 30, 2020. Due to the ongoing COVID-19 crisis, the state Workforce Board elected to postpone the review process for local plans until further notice. The federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) does not require specific deliverable timeframes for local plans, leaving the scheduling to states. However, the law requires that each local board have an approved plan in order to receive formula WIOA funds. The Employment Security Department intends to provide local boards flexibility during the COVID-19 crisis by making WIOA formula funds available prior to official review by the Workforce Board. To do so, they are requesting local boards submit the following:

1. Identification of the local entity responsible for disbursement of the grant funds per WIOA Section 108(b)(15);
2. Description of the competitive process to be used to award the subgrants and contracts to carry out local WIOA Title I activities per WIOA Section 108(b)(16), including Local Workforce Development Board (LWDB) requests for waivers to provide direct services per WIOA Title I Policy 5404; and
3. A set of assurances regarding administration of funds signed by chief local elected official and board chair.

We acknowledge that your local plan submission contains the requested updated elements. ESD staff will be in contact with you in May to complete contracting for PY20 WIOA funds, the date dependent on how soon the U.S. Department of Labor provides the state with our annual allocation. Subsequently, Workforce Board and ESD staff will develop new planning guidelines and submission dates over the summer. The Workforce Board is aiming for a local plan approval process in late summer or early fall but will also consider the trajectory of the COVID-19 crisis and the impact on local agencies to establish the later submission date.

If you have any questions about the process for finalizing state approval of your local plan, please contact the Workforce Board's Deputy Director for Policy and Programs, Eric Wolf (eric.wolf@wtb.wa.gov). You may direct questions your questions regarding your PY20 WIOA Formula grants to Andrew Clemons at Employment Security (aclemons@esd.wa.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Eleni Papadakis', written in a cursive style.

Eleni Papadakis
Executive Director
Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board