
 Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Regional Designation Policy

05-2016 Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Regional Designation

ISSUING AGENCY:	State Workforce Development Board
SCOPE:	State Workforce Development Board, Arizona Department of Economic Security, Arizona Commerce Authority, Local Workforce Development Boards, Local Workforce Administrative Entities, One-Stop Operators, and Workforce System Stakeholders
REFERENCES:	Title I of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) of 2014, (Pub. L. 113-128); WIOA Proposed * Regulations, § 679.200 and § 679.210.

***This policy is based on WIOA Proposed regulations as published in the Federal Register on April 16, 2015, and may need to be amended to align with the WIOA Final regulations once the U.S. Department of Labor, U.S. Department of Education, and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services complete the rulemaking process.**

EFFECTIVE DATE:	February 1, 2016
OBJECTIVE:	This policy articulates the State's designation of planning regions.
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DEFINITIONS:	<i>Chief Elected Official</i> is the chief elected executive officer of a unit of general local government in a local area, which is the mayor, county board of supervisors chair, or tribal nation president. In Arizona, the State Workforce Investment Board is called the Workforce Arizona Council .

BACKGROUND: The state may designate WIOA regions according to three different strategies outlined in WIOA 106(a)(2):

- Regions comprised of one local area;
- Regions comprised of two or more local areas known as planning regions; or
- Regions comprised of two or more local areas that span across state lines.

Once designated, WIOA planning regions are required to engage in a regional planning process that incorporates the local area plans within that region and results in a regional plan that will be reviewed by the State Workforce Development Board.

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The State Workforce Development Board, as the designated representative of the Governor, provides the following guidance on this designation:

- A. Single Area Regions.** Designate each local area as its own region for the first year of implementation. It is incumbent upon each local area to consult with its respective Local Elected Officials regarding this designation.
 - a. Planning Process.** In lieu of regions containing more than one local area, each local area will be required to submit only one local plan.
 - b. Collaboration.** Local areas are strongly encouraged by the State to leverage capacities and engage in collaborative efforts that positively impact regional economies.
- B. Review Process.** Following the first year of implementation, the State Workforce Development Board will review the single area designations in place and consult with local workforce development boards and chief elected officials to determine the best strategy moving forward.

CONTACT ENTITY: Inquiries regarding this policy should be directed to the State Administrative Entity, at AZWIOAComments@azdes.gov.