

Overview of State Plan Revisions

The 2018 revision to the State Workforce Plan makes revisions to the 2016 plan reflecting work that has been done in implementing WIOA. It includes three new plan partners: Unemployment Insurance and the Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP) as administered by the Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation and the Community Services Block Grant as administered by the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development. The 2018 plan also notes the inclusion of Seedco as a Re-Integration of Ex-Offenders (REXo) grantee in Baltimore. The 2016 plan notes that while REXo was a designated plan partner, there was no non-profit entity that receives this federal grant in Maryland. However, the Department became aware of Seedco's awarded grant in mid-2017.

Stylistically, the plan has changed from a narrative to a question and answer type format for ease when it comes time to enter into the portal.

SPECIFIC SECTION BY SECTION CHANGES

Executive Summary - An executive summary was added to the document for ease of reading. As was the case with the 2016 plan, this executive summary makes reference to the state plan's overall theme of "placing people before performance." It adds a reference to the *Benchmarks of Success for Maryland's Workforce System*. The *Benchmarks*, which have been approved by the Governor's Workforce Development Board, have also been approved by executive leadership as a way to integrate service delivery across systems and to more holistically provide customers entering into the AJCs and other various points of entry into the workforce system with the interventions they actually need.

Section 2: Strategic Elements

*Labor Market Information (LMI) has been updated. The OWIP team provided an updated analysis of growing and emerging industries. Of note, the targeted industries have not changed, as the Maryland Economic Development Assistance Authority Fund (MEDAAF) targeted industries have not changed per Commerce.

*The Strategic Vision section only changed inasmuch that a reference to the *Benchmarks* was added. The Strategic Vision continues to reflect the Governor's 5 principles.

*State Strategy to implement the strategic vision includes a more refined section on Registered Apprenticeship, since the 2016 plan was submitted prior to the Office of Apprenticeship and Training's arrival to DWDAL. The Career Pathway Grant that was recently released utilizing the State Set Aside funds was also noted.

*Discussion of WIOA Alignment Group - As a plan partner, UI and DHCD now each have representation on the WIOA Alignment Group. New partners began attending the monthly meetings in January

Section 3: Operational Elements

*State Board – Governor's Workforce Investment Board's name was changed to Governor's Workforce Development Board (GWDB). GWDB included a discussion of the task forces. The State Board's membership roster, which must be included, was updated.

*Section on Alignment of Activities Outside of Plan was re-written. The answer in the 2016 plan included a number of items about apprenticeship that did not fully address the prompt. The new answer talks about connecting EARN and Apprenticeships to the workforce system through the Eligible Training Provider List. The response also references the Skilled Immigrant Task Force and building a connection between services provided by the workforce system and those provided by immigrant serving agencies. Finally, a discussion of the Governor's 2Gen Commission and the work that is being done regarding the 2Gen approach and how it relates to the workforce system is discussed.

*State Operating Systems - In the 2016 plan, the partners noted the importance of having IT systems talk to each other. While that critical issue remains, there are more specifics that the state can now give since the filing of the 2016 plan. For example, MD THINK is now expressly mentioned as a potential option and the recent Maryland Workforce Exchange (MWE) Partner Access policy is discussed in a number of prompts.

*Performance Measures - Performance section is updated to include guidance from federal partners through a Training and Employment Guidance Letter (TEGL). The change notes Jobs for Veterans State Grant (JVSG) now

uses WIOA core performance measures. In the 2016 plan, JVSG still used the old Workforce Investment Act performance measures.

*Section 188 and Providing Access to Job Centers — This section is updated to align with the Non-Discrimination plan currently under review with the DLLR Office of Fair Practices. The 2016 plan required the State to opine on its implementation of Section 188 when the federal regulations would not even be published until December 2016. The same is true for prompts regarding language access.

Section 4 - Program Specific Sections

Title I - Adult, Youth, and Dislocated Worker

*Uses of Governor's Set-Aside - Career Pathway, Reentry Navigators, and 2Gen initiatives are discussed with a note that additional initiatives for TANF are being explored.

*Request for Waivers is left blank - the 2016 plan notes that USDOL did not entertain waiver requests. This is an open question.

Wagner-Peyser

*Training - notes the desire to provide training through the HUB (a DBM managed online platform) and for a more concerted effort to work with UI to cross-train.

*WP and UI - Noted Secretary's Year of UI and reemployment focus. Also notes implementation of Re-Employment Exchange module to the Maryland Workforce Exchange.

Title II - Adult Education

*Information is updated to reflect the Assessment Policy.

Vocational Rehabilitation

*Updates were completed by DORS

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) (known in Maryland as Temporary Cash Assistance)

*Updates were completed by DHS.

Trade Adjustment Act (TRADE)

*No TRADE specific prompts are required.

Jobs for Veterans State Grant

*No changes

Unemployment Insurance – (UI)

*Incorporates without edit the State Quality Service Plan (SQSP), as submitted to USDOL earlier this year

Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP)

*Incorporates a revised 2 Year plan for SCSEP. The last two-year plan was completed before SCSEP staff were transitioned from the Department of Aging to DLLR.

Community Services Block Grant (CSBG)

*Information provided by the Department of Housing and Community Development