

**Regional Information and Planning Meetings  
Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)  
Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development**

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**Tuesday, November 3, 2015, 1:00 – 4:00 PM**

Centennial Hall Convention Center, Ballroom 2

101 Egan Drive, **Juneau**, Alaska 99801

**Thursday, November 5, 2015, 1:00 – 4:00 PM**

University of Alaska, Butrovich Building

Board of Regents Conference Room 109

910 Yukon Drive, **Fairbanks**, Alaska 99701

**Wednesday, November 18, 2015, 1:00 – 4:00 PM**

William A Egan Civic & Convention Center

Lower Level -- Summit Hall

555 West 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue, **Anchorage**, Alaska 99501

**Purposes of the meetings**

- a. To inform the public about the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) and the department's implementation efforts;
- b. To solicit comments and feedback from regional and statewide partners -- including education, industry, workforce development, and economic development -- to assist the department in writing its four-year WIOA strategic plan and enhancing the state's workforce system.

**Background**

The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) is the federal program that funds state and local workforce initiatives and provides a variety of job training services for adults and youth. WIOA modernizes and streamlines the Workforce Investment Act of 1998. WIOA was created to allow states more flexibility in collaborating across systems to better address the employment and skills needs of employees, jobseekers, and employers. WIOA stresses the importance of education, training, credentials, and skills; helping people with barriers to employment; meeting the needs of employers; increasing the success and economic self-sufficiency of workers; and aligning workforce development with education and economic development.

The writing of a new state workforce development plan is a major opportunity for Alaska. WIOA emphasizes sector partnerships, career pathways, cross-program data and measurement, and job-driven investments. Our state plan will describe the workforce development system that Alaskans want, and will explain how we will use WIOA and other state and federal programs to achieve that vision.

Your engagement and feedback will help ensure that the plan will achieve our goals for an enhanced workforce system that meets both jobseeker and employer needs.

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**Proposed Agenda**

- Welcome and introductions
- Department vision and priorities
- WIOA overview
- Labor market information and workforce demand projections – state and region
- Current education, workforce development, & economic development activities and needs
- Participant discussion and input --

**Framing Alaska's Workforce System**

Considering your role or your agency's role in Alaska's workforce development system . . .

1. How can regional partners work together to align programs, develop career pathways, and cultivate industry sector partnerships for in-demand industries?
  2. How can we support regional planning & coordination of services?
  3. How can we improve access to activities leading to recognized postsecondary credentials?
  4. How can we measure and report the quality, effectiveness, and improvement of programs and services?
  5. How can performance data be disseminated to ensure transparency and accountability?
  6. How can the state collect and capture accurate credentialing data from training providers?
  7. How can the One-Stop Career Centers be structured to best serve jobseekers and employers?
  8. What strategies can we use to better serve individuals with disabilities; out-of-school youth; unemployed and under-employed; rural residents; those who need training; low-income; those with other barriers to training and employment?
  9. What strategies can we use to expand pre-apprenticeship and apprenticeship opportunities?
  10. How can WIOA programs better connect with other partners (industry, workforce development, education, economic development, others)?
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- Next Steps