



GOV. PHIL BRYANT AT NSPARC

Mississippi Works: WIOA Newsletter

Vol 1/Issue 1
Monday, June 15, 2015

Governor Phil Bryant is committed to creating a workforce development system that provides the highest levels of resource efficiency, measured performance and public/private sector coordination to ensure the people of Mississippi are sufficiently trained for the jobs of the 21st century.

What is WIOA?

The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) of 2014 is a comprehensive law that expands existing workforce partners and requires greater coordination and alignment between workforce entities. WIOA is presenting an extraordinary opportunity to streamline services to better prepare Mississippi's workforce. Though the law has been passed, regulations are still being finalized by the U.S. Departments of Labor and Education. This newsletter will provide weekly updates regarding Mississippi's WIOA planning process. Our state will be an early implementer and will submit a combined plan on September 1, 2015.

What is the WIOA combined plan?

WIOA is comprised of four primary core partners that are listed below. The combined plan will include one more core partner that will be decided upon in the next few weeks.

- 1. Title I – Workforce (adult, youth, and dislocated worker)**
- 2. Title II – Adult Education and Family Literacy Act**
- 3. Title III- Wagner-Peyser Act**
- 4. Title IV – Vocational Rehabilitation**

Weekly Update

This week, the Planning and Communication Workgroup met to discuss strategies that will guide the WIOA planning process. The meeting was led by Jay Moon, Chairman of the SWIB board, and James Williams, Executive Director of the SWIB. Based on initial analysis highlighted in the SWIB's 2015 legislative report, the board determined three priority areas to focus:

- 1. Improve workforce participation rates so every Mississippian will have the opportunity to find gainful employment.**
- 2. Eliminate the workforce skill gap for the increasing demand in middle-skills jobs.**
- 3. Create a workforce system that acts and functions as an ecosystem.**

This workgroup is responsible for keeping the other groups on task. They will make sure that deadlines are met and that the process is being communicated effectively. A key component to the planning process is transparency. The workgroup wants every voice heard as we collaborate on the overarching vision for the state's revitalized workforce development system. No longer will we work in silos, but rather work together as an ecosystem of partners creating a vibrant economic climate for Mississippi.

Next week, the Aligned and Integrated Technology Workgroup will meet to discuss the WIOA technology requirements that will be incorporated into the workforce development plan as well as how Mississippi can find efficiencies in the system. Also, the One Stop Operations Workgroup will meet to discuss ideas for cross program alignment of all services in a seamless model that best accommodates the jobseeker and the employers.

Timeline

Aligned and Integrated Technology Workgroup

Tuesday, June 16 – 10:00 AM

Mississippi Department of Employment Security
1235 Echelon Parkway Jackson, MS

One Stop Operations Workgroup

Thursday, June 18 – 10:00 AM

Holmes Community College
412 W Ridgeland Ave. Ridgeland, MS

Employer Engagement Workgroup

Tuesday, June 23 – 10:00 AM

Mississippi Department of Employment Security
1235 Echelon Parkway Jackson, MS

Career Pathways Workgroup

Thursday, June 25 – 10:00 AM
Mississippi Department of Employment Security
1235 Echelon Parkway Jackson, MS

SWIB Meeting and 1st Public Forum

Friday, June 26 – 10:00 AM
Mississippi Department of Education Central High School Auditorium
359 North West Street Jackson, MS

Performance and Accountability Workgroup

Tuesday, June 30 – 10:00 AM
CAVS Extension
153 Mississippi Parkway Canton, MS

Sector Strategies Workgroup

Tuesday, June 30 - 1:30 PM
CAVS Extension
153 Mississippi Parkway Canton, MS

Business Focus Group

Wednesday, July 8 – 10:00 AM
Mississippi Department of Information Technology
3771 Eastwood Drive Jackson, MS

SWIB Meeting and 2nd Public Forum

Wednesday, July 22 – 5:30 PM
Mississippi Department of Education Central High School Auditorium
359 North West Street Jackson, MS

SWIB meeting

Friday, August 14 – 10:00 AM
Jackson Convention Center
105 E Pascagoula St. Jackson, MS 39201

**In addition, WIOA Planning Meetings are held every Friday at 10:00 AM at nSPARC on the campus of Mississippi State University.*

Contact

For more information, visit the WIOA tab our web site at <http://swib.ms.gov/>

Questions? Contact James Williams at 601-321-6046 or jwilliams@swdb-ms.org