



Mississippi Works:
WIOA
Newsletter

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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.

Has your voice been heard?

Three public forums are a part of the WIOA planning process to engage the public at large during different stages of the plan's development. To ensure an open and transparent process, all comments will be collected and become a part of the public record. To let your voice be heard, please submit comments through our website at <http://swib.ms.gov/>.

Weekly Update

The second of three WIOA public forums was held Wednesday, July 22, in the Robert E. Lee building in downtown Jackson. SWIB Chairman Jay Moon explained how the legislative task force study findings are key elements of the WIOA planning process. He also said the SWIB's role is to ensure that all workforce development resources and activities are effectively utilized and strategically aligned so Mississippi's workforce can remain competitive.

SWIB Executive Director James Williams explained the roles and responsibilities of the WIOA workgroups, which have all met and provided input. Specifically, three workgroups have addressed the strategic planning requirements, and four workgroups have examined the operational planning elements. Williams discussed how the business sector was engaged through a focus group to improve understanding of workforce needs and concerns.



SWIB Chairman Jay Moon addresses the audience of the WIOA public forum held on July 22, 2015.

SWIB Senior Policy Analyst Yolanda Boone gave an overview of the target workforce sectors and how data analysis, employment and unemployment data, labor market trends, and the educational and skill level of our workforce will determine these strategies. She also gave an overview of how the WIOA plan is being written and developed by the technical team.

There were numerous public comments focused on how the WIOA plan will expand employment, training, and educational opportunities for Mississippians facing barriers, such as transportation and child care that potentially hinder workforce participation.

Timeline

SWIB Meeting and 3rd Public Forum

Friday, August 14 – 10:00 AM at the Clyde Muse Center, 515 Country Place Parkway, Pearl, MS

**In addition, WIOA Planning Meetings are held every Friday at 10 a.m. at NSPARC on the campus of Mississippi State University.*

Contact

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

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