



PHIL BRYANT
GOVERNOR

March 30, 2018

The Honorable R. Alexander Acosta
Secretary of Labor
Office of the Secretary
United States Department of Labor
Frances Perkins Building
200 Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20210

Dear Mr. Secretary:

As Chief Executive Officer of the State of Mississippi, I certify that the officials named in the accompanying documents are legally authorized to and have been duly designated to represent their respective offices or agencies of the State of Mississippi in the capacities indicated for purposes of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, Title I; Wagner-Peyser Act grant programs, Title II; the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act, Title III; the Rehabilitation Act and Supported Employment Supplement, Title IV; and the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program.

Mississippi has fully embraced the opportunities provided by the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) to continue our commitment to ensuring that all Mississippians have access to the training and support necessary to follow a quality career pathway that leads to economic prosperity for all. Under the original comprehensive WIOA plan, the state was able to efficiently align and integrate resources from a multitude of entities across the state to ensure continuity of services aimed at supporting career pathways for people from all walks of life.

The federally mandated update to the plan has provided Mississippi the opportunity to include new strategies to increase our ability to achieve the state's long-term workforce goals. Several new elements have been introduced.

To ensure a highly skilled and educated workforce, our revised plan includes a well-organized, registered apprenticeship program operated by the newly created Mississippi Apprenticeship Council. With this innovative apprenticeship program, Mississippi's community college system will embed apprenticeships directly into career and technical education training programs. Through a combination of on-the-job training and classroom instruction, student apprentices will earn credit toward their degree for work experience while also earning a wage. The state is also in the process of developing ways to convert work experience into college credits. Individuals who already have learned the skills and earned work experience can benefit from a "reverse apprenticeship" that allows these workers to receive college credit toward a degree in their field

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI • OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

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so they can further advance their careers. This helps to formalize the individual's experience and provides the opportunity to earn a degree necessary to expand their economic opportunities.

As part of the state's commitment to improving the quality of our workforce, Mississippi has placed a great deal of emphasis on early learning. In December of 2016, the State Early Childhood Advisory Council released its plan, "A Family-Based Unified and Integrated Early Childhood System." For children, the plan ensures high-quality childcare centers that employ curricula aligned with public K-12 standards in which the child's health and learning needs are addressed to ensure school-readiness by the time they enter kindergarten. Under this new strategy, parents can benefit from all the resources provided by the WIOA plan so they can improve life for themselves and their children. The future of our workforce requires a multi-generational approach where both the children and their parents are part of the state's long-term strategy.

The State of Mississippi certifies on the 30th Day of March in 2018 that it has complied with all of the required components of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, the Wagner-Peyser Act, the Social Security Act, the Trade Adjustment Act, the Jobs for Veterans Act, the Senior Community Service Employment Programs under Title V of the Older Americans Act, the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act, the Rehabilitation Act and Supported Employment Supplement, and the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program. The State of Mississippi certifies that funds will be spent in accordance with the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act and all the aforementioned Acts and programs, written Department of Labor guidance implementing these laws, and all other applicable federal and state laws and regulations.

The State of Mississippi further certifies that we will operate our Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act programs in accordance with the 2018 Updated Combined Plan attached here and the assurances reflected there.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Phil Bryant", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Phil Bryant
Governor
State of Mississippi