

Dear Governor Reeves:

The U.S. Departments of Labor and Education (Departments) are grateful for your work leading State workforce efforts through the State Workforce Development Board and collaboration among education, employment, and training programs. The Departments are working together to implement Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) programs and are ready to assist Mississippi in implementing its strategies to effectively respond to State and local needs.

The Departments are pleased to inform you that we have approved Mississippi's four-year WIOA Combined State Plan submitted on March 24, 2020, pursuant to sections 102(c)(3)(A) and 103(b)(1) of WIOA. The Combined State Plan will take effect July 1, 2020, and cover program years 2020 through 2023 (July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2024). If your Combined State Plan included requests for waivers of WIOA Title I or Wagner-Peyser requirements, you will receive a separate communication from the U.S. Department of Labor with the disposition of those requests.

This decision constitutes a written determination that covers the joint planning elements, or "common elements," as well as the program-specific requirements for the six core programs under WIOA. This decision also constitutes a written determination that covers the "common elements" and program-specific requirements for the programs that Mississippi included in its Combined State Plan that are administered by the U.S. Department of Labor:

- the Jobs for Veterans State Grants program authorized under 38 U.S.C. 4100, et. seq.;
- the Senior Community Service Employment Program authorized under title V of the Older Americans Act of 1965, as amended; and
- the Unemployment Insurance program authorized under state unemployment compensation laws in accordance with applicable Federal law.

This decision does not constitute a determination on the program-specific requirements of the Combined State Plan for a program administered by Federal agencies other than the U.S. Departments of Labor and Education:

- the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program authorized under 42 U.S.C. 601 et seq., administered by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

You will receive information about the approval status of the TANF portion of the Combined State Plan from the U.S. Departments of Health and Human Services within the 120-day timeframe for approval of these portions of your Combined State Plan.

The Departments recognize that the Combined State Plan was largely developed in a different economy. While the Departments will ask Mississippi to submit the required Combined State Plan modification for program years 2022 and 2023, we remind Mississippi that it may, at any time, submit a modification to its approved Combined State Plan to respond to changing economic or employment situations in the State.

We value Mississippi's commitment to work together with stakeholders and the Departments to support the public workforce system. The Departments will provide technical assistance and monitor Mississippi's progress on an ongoing basis as we work together to help Mississippi implement the vision and goals described in its Combined State Plan and its innovations to improve the quality and effectiveness of services to jobseekers and employers.

If you have any questions, please contact Lenita Jacobs-Simmons, Employment and Training Administration Regional Administrator, at Jacobs-Simmons.L@dol.gov.

Sincerely,

John Pallasch
Assistant Secretary
Employment and Training Administration
U.S. Department of Labor

Scott Stump
Assistant Secretary
Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education
U.S. Department of Education

Mark Schultz
Delegated the authority to perform
the functions and duties of the Assistant Secretary for the
Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services
U.S. Department of Education

Lynn A. Johnson
Assistant Secretary
Administration for Children and Families
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

John Lowry
Assistant Secretary
Veterans' Employment and Training Service
U.S. Department of Labor