

2012 Integrated State Plan: Overview

In General. The Workforce Investment Act (WIA) of 1998, as amended, requires that the governor of each state submit a WIA title I/Wagner-Peyser (W-P) Act State Plan to the U.S. Department of Labor that outlines the Five-year strategy for its workforce investment system. States must have approved state plans in place to receive formula allotments under WIA or financial assistance under W-P. The State of Montana's last complete state plan was submitted in 2005, and was extended to 2012.

The Plan. This year, the SWIB will be submitting an Integrated Workforce Plan that provides a plan for WIA and Wagner-Peyser programs, including a Wagner-Peyser agricultural outreach plan, and short description of plans to coordinate with Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA). The plan will also include the Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP). The integrated plan will feature three key sections that must be included: I. The State Workforce Strategic Plan; II. The State Operational Plan; III. Assurances.

Part I. The State Workforce Strategic Plan will focus on elements that represent the high-level vision, goals, economic and workforce analysis, strategies, and outcomes that the governor and strategic partners collaboratively identify for the state's future. The elements in this section are intended to serve as a vehicle for the governor, State Workforce Investment Board, and other partners to identify broad goals and strategies for the state.

Part II. The State Operational Plan will describe how specific workforce programs will operationalize, administer, and implement systems and structures to achieve the vision, strategies, and goals identified by the Strategic Plan. Virtually all items contained in this section are required by statute or regulation for inclusion in the State Plan.

Part III. Assurances. A list of assurances, in which the state assures the Department that it is complying with applicable law and, where appropriate, attaches policies or other supporting documentation.

The SWIB's Role. The State Workforce Investment Board should play a significant role in developing the plan. Building on the strategic vision for the state's economy and overarching goals for the state's workforce system provided by the governor, the SWIB should specifically discuss **1.) How to align the governor's vision with workforce development partners to achieve accessible, seamless, integrated and comprehensive service; 2.) How programs and activities provided by described in the plan will support the state's economic development needs and employment and training needs of working-age youth and adults in the state; 3.) Methods that will be used for joint planning and coordination of programs and activities; 4.) Providing feedback as workforce stakeholders, representatives of business and labor organizations, community-based organizations, and youth representatives on economic trends, workforce sectors, and employer goals and needs.**

Time-line:

- May 7, 2012 – Discussion of Strategic Plan (Part I) with SWIB Executive Committee
- May 30th, 2012 – Discuss Relative Sections of Strategic Plan with SWIB Youth Council
- May 31, 2012 – Discuss Overall Progress of Plan and Receive input from the State Workforce Investment Board
- July 9-13, 2012 – Finish Rough Draft of Plan
- July 16 – August 15, 2012 – Public Comment Period
- August 20 – 24, 2012 – Revise & Finalize Plan based on Public Comment
- August 27, 2012 – SWIB Executive Committee meeting to Endorse Plan
- August 28-31, 2012 – Submission of Final Plan

More Information on the State Planning Process is Available Here:

http://wdr.doleta.gov/directives/attach/TEGL/tegl_21_11_acc.pdf
<http://www.doleta.gov/usworkforce/wia-planning/>