

III. Operational Planning Elements

A. State Strategy Implementation

State Workforce Innovation Board

The mission of the Montana State Workforce Innovation Board (SWIB) is to advise the Governor on statewide workforce development strategies that maximize the state's education, training and employment resources in support of economic development. The board leads the state in broad strategic workforce initiatives that leverage resources beyond WIOA funding, while providing necessary system oversight. The SWIB accomplishes this through the following actions:

- Making policy recommendations for the Governor related to the establishment and maintenance of an efficient, integrated, statewide workforce development system to train the maximum number of unemployed and underemployed Montanans as possible
- Leading the strategic planning process for an integrated workforce development system, in consultation with Community Management Teams
- Creating performance standards that identify effective workforce development initiatives; coordinating the state's workforce investment initiatives with the state's economic development plan
- Promoting a system of workforce development that responds to the lifelong learning needs of Montana's workforce
- Encouraging public/private partnerships and facilitating innovations in workforce development policy and practices
- Ensuring a quality workforce system by evaluating results and supporting high standards and continuous improvement

The SWIB is comprised of a majority of business leaders in the State of Montana, who are stakeholders in the prosperity of workforce and economic development. These business representatives, along with public and workforce representatives, play a vital role in ensuring that employers have access to a prepared workforce and that job seekers are able to access services, resources and training that will enable them to obtain employment.

Standing committees of the State Workforce Innovation Board include: the Executive Committee, WIOA Committee, Apprenticeship/On-the-Job Training/Career Pathways Committee, Sector Strategies Committee, and the Youth Services Committee. These committees conduct business as an advisory body to the Governor on statewide

workforce system issues, as well as to assume responsibility for performing all WIOA local workforce board duties.

Executive Committee: The Executive Committee is comprised of the officers and no more than ten at-large representatives, and is composed of a majority of business members. The at-large representatives of the Executive Committee shall be members of the SWIB and are appointed by the chair. The Executive Committee leads the SWIB workgroups and has the authority to act on behalf of the SWIB. The Executive Committee's responsibilities are to: oversee implementation of the strategic plan; track workgroup plans and progress; offer leadership around alignment of workgroups; offer leadership around leveraging system partners; and drive the provision of critical workforce data.

WIOA Committee: The WIOA Committee is charged with ensuring compliance with the applicable WIOA laws and regulations governing the Title 1B Adult, Youth and Dislocated Worker programs, and to bring policy issues and recommendations to the Governor and SWIB.

Apprenticeship/On-the-Job Training/Career Pathways (AOC) Committee: The AOC Committee focuses on training and educational models that provide the current and future workforce with opportunities that are responsive and aligned with new and changing economies. Such opportunities emphasize "earn while you learn" models while meeting employers' needs immediately (i.e. on-the-job training, apprenticeship, work-based learning) and using skills upgrading as a strategy to re-build declining economies. The committee is also responsible for bringing policy issues and recommendations to the Governor and SWIB.

Sector Strategies Committee: The Sector Strategies Committee works to develop a deeper understanding of the interrelationships between business competitiveness and the workforce needs of target industries, crafting workforce-tailored solutions for those industries and their specific regions. The committee also brings policy issues and recommendations to the Governor and the SWIB.

Youth Services Committee: The Montana SWIB and Youth Services Committee provide leadership by serving as a catalyst to connect out-of-school youth and at-risk youth with quality secondary and post-secondary educational opportunities and high-growth and other employment opportunities. The SWIB and Youth Services Committee will ensure that workforce youth activities complement and reinforce academic and occupational curriculum, as youth policy-makers and system builders.