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STATE INSTRUCTION NUMBER 15-08

To: County Council Chairs
Workforce Area Signatory Officials
Workforce Area Administrators

Subject: Identification and Alignment of WIOA Planning Regions

Issuance Date: October 28, 2015

Effective Date: Immediately

Purpose: To identify the planning regions within the state for purposes of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA).

Background: WIOA requires the Governor to identify regions, consisting of one or more local areas. The purpose for identifying regions is to align workforce and economic development resources, to align education and training with regional talent needs, to provide efficient and coordinated services to job seekers and employers, and to support the development and implementation of sector strategies and career pathways.

In determining the alignment of regions, WIOA requires consideration of the extent to which local areas in a proposed region: share a single labor market, share a common economic development area, and possess the Federal and non-Federal resources (including appropriate education and training institutions) to administer activities under WIOA. Additional factors were considered as follows:

- population centers;
- labor force conditions;
- commuting patterns;
- industry composition and location quotients;
- income, poverty and educational attainment; and,
- in-demand occupations.

The data collected as part of this process was examined by state workforce partners, including the Department of Commerce, Department of Education, Department of Employment and Workforce, and the State Technical College System. These entities agreed to move the consultation process forward with a four (4) region alignment.

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More than 100 individuals were invited to participate in a webinar to identify the proposed regions, review the supporting data, explain the consultation process, and solicit feedback and questions. Invitees consisted of state workforce development board members, state workforce partners, county council chairs, local workforce area signatory officials and administrators, and local workforce development board chairs. During the subsequent public comment period four comments were received, with outreach and follow-up conducted to address the comments. The proposed regional alignment and comments were presented to the State Workforce Development Board (SWDB) on October 20, 2015. On behalf of the Governor, the SWDB approved the planning regions as proposed.

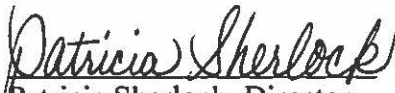
Policy: As a result of the process outlined above and approved by the SWDB, the regional alignment for WIOA planning and coordination purposes consists of the following four (4) regions:

- Upstate – includes Upper Savannah, WorkLink, Greenville and Upstate local workforce areas
- Central – includes Lower Savannah, Midlands and Catawba local workforce areas
- Pee Dee – includes Santee-Lynches, Pee Dee and Waccamaw local workforce areas
- South Coast – includes Trident and Lowcountry local workforce areas.

The attached map identifies the geographical boundaries of each region.

Action: Please ensure that all staff and local workforce development board members receive and understand this policy.

Inquiries: Questions may be directed to Rebecca Battle-Bryant at RBBryant@dew.sc.gov or (803) 737-0387.


Patricia Sherlock, Director
Policies and Procedures

Attachment

South Carolina WIOA Planning Regions

