



ACTION BRIEF

To: RWP Corporate Directors
From: Jim Fong, Executive Director
Date: April 1, 2016
Subject: Rogue Workforce Partnership Local Plan - Final Review & Approval

Background / Discussion

The **Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act Local Plan – Rogue Valley for 2016-2020** has been posted for the required 30-day review and public comment period.

In order to meet the State of Oregon’s Local Plan submission deadline of April 1st, the RWP – Corporate Directors, functioning as the Executive Committee of the RWP Workforce Board, must take action to review and approve the final modifications to the plan, based on the input and feedback from RWP members, as well as other key stakeholders and community partners.

In addition, Josephine County Commissioner Cheryl Walker, acting in her capacity as designated Chief Elected Official, and in consultation with Jackson County Commissioner Rick Dyer, has reviewed and approved the Local Plan, and signed the necessary Statement of Concurrence document required as part of this Local Plan submission (also requires RWP-Chair signature).

Input received from RWP members at our March 9th Workforce Board meeting, and feedback received via email are listed below for your review. All of these feedback points have been incorporated into the attached final draft version of the Local Plan. These are highlighted in red. Both RCC and AFL-CIO staff were further consulted by phone and email to ensure the modifications made to the plan fully address their proposed edits/points of view.

Feedback Summary

1. Discussion by RWP Members

- Email from Ron Fox: *Where are the measureable achievements or metrics? How will we know if we are moving forward toward our stated goals over a defined period of time, one quarter, one year or five years?*

RWP-Workforce Board Discussion:

We need great aspirations. We need 1-year and 2-year goals so we can communicate with the business community. Add goals that are measureable, for example:

- To address work ethic issues
- Changes in student skill attainment, graduation rate
- Changes in curriculum
- Doubling the CTE enrollment at RCC or the OIT enrollment of Southern Oregon students

These could be added as part of our sector strategies work group efforts. Do it at this level, instead of making it a part of this plan document

- Address Top, Middle & Entry level needs
- Add Work Expectations to Goal #4
(Keep in mind: young people are not the problem. Society is the problem.)
- Talk about the quality of life amenities of the Rogue Valley that make it a desirable place to live, locate, relocate or start a business. We need to support the Tourism/Hospitality industry as well as part of a comprehensive strategy to keep our region an attractive place to do business.

2. From Rogue Community College

In Section 1.4, page 10, discussion of training options, it is suggested the inclusion of language pertaining to Pathways (as is in the state plan) and the specific addition of:

1. *Industry-recognized credentials*
2. *Credit certificates, including Pathways certificates*
3. *Non-credit training and certificates*

This also aligns with Sector Strategies on page 20 where it mentions CTE/Perkins and career pathways.

Under Goal 3, third bullet, build foundational work skills; add:

1. *Continue to refer appropriate participants to Rogue Community College for Basic Skills remediation and GED test preparation.*

Under Attachment 6, page 36, Enhanced Partnerships and Systems Integration; add:

1. *Information from page 20 of the local plan about the intent of the Title II Task Force. Perhaps something like, “work with Title II and other partners to continuously improve and innovate to develop a highly streamlined, effective, efficient and integrated system for improving adult basic skills and GED completion.”*

Additional feedback from RCC was incorporated through joint editing of the Local Plan document, and has been fully incorporated.

2. From AFL-CIO, Mark Warne

In Section 4.10 Describe how Rapid Response activities are coordinated and carried out in the local area. See Local Plan:

References and Resources [WIOA 108(b)(8)]

A company who may be closing or laying off workers and/or the labor union who represents the affected workers will contact the local service provider in the area. The service provider will then notify the Rapid Response Team and the team will work with the employer to schedule a meeting with the employees to assess the situation and provide options. Once the assessment is complete, a request for Rapid Response Funds, as well as a complete budget, will be submitted to RWP for approval. Upon approval, RWP will determine any cost that it may incur and will include it in the budget. Once that process is complete, the revised budget with the narrative will be sent to the state for final approval and payment will be made by the state. Rapid Response Team members should include:

- *Service Provider Dislocated Worker Liaison*
- *Oregon Employment Department representatives, including veteran representation*

- *State Labor Liaison*
- *Local Community College Representation*

Instead of incorporating the specific passage above, we worked with Mark Warne to create new verbiage to insert into our existing description of our region's Rapid Response process. His request has been fully incorporated into the Local Plan

Recommended Action

That the RWP-Corporate Directors review and approve the Final Draft version of the WIOA Local Plan for the Rogue Valley 2016-2020 for submission to the State of Oregon.