

Subject: Local Unified Plan for PY 2018-2019

Background:

The Ramsey County Workforce Innovation Board (WIB) last approved a Local Plan in June 2016 for the 2016-2018 program years. DEED has requested an update to all the Local Plans which are due to DEED by May 31, 2018. A review of the last Plan was performed by Workforce Solutions staff. Job Service, Adult Education, and Vocational Rehabilitation partners have also reviewed the updated Plan. As required, a legal notice was published in the Ramsey County Review (the official newspaper of Ramsey County) on March 7, 2018, making the public aware that the Plan was posted on the WIB's website and remained open for 30 days for public comment.

On March 23, 2018, the updated Plan was reviewed and approved by the WIB's Executive Committee. Approval by the full Ramsey County WIB occurred on April 5, 2018. The Ramsey County Board reviewed and approved the Plan at their meeting on May 8, 2018.

On May 2, 2018 DEED sent an updated Guidance Memo with instructions to add language regarding changes they had made to the State WIOA Plan. Our local response to the recommended changes are described below in sections labeled **Provision of Basic Career Services** and **Gender Equity Focus on Youth**.

Executive Summary:

Ramsey County Workforce Solutions (WFS) is the designated provider of Employment and Training Programs for WIOA Adults and Dislocated Workers. This Local Plan update presented to the WIB covers the period of July 1, 2018 - June 30, 2020. The items below were identified as the notable changes for the upcoming 2018-2019 program year.

PY 2018-2019 Local Plan Updates:

Federated (Hub and Spoke) Model Adopted

WDA #15 had for many years been the home of two comprehensive WorkForce Centers. In 2015-17, the WIB and DEED explored the consolidation of the two Centers into a hub and spoke (federated) model. Through this exploration, it was determined that sites in both the urban and suburban areas of the WDA were the best option, with one site located in the City of Saint Paul, designated as the comprehensive WorkForce Center, one designated as an Affiliate WorkForce Center located in the suburban city of North Saint Paul, and a Specialized Center located in downtown Saint Paul, within the Ramsey County Government Center East.

The federated model has one main WorkForce Center at the center of the model with colleges, libraries, CBOs and the Affiliate Site and Specialized Service Center interacting and supporting it. The Saint Paul WorkForce Center is leased and operated by Department of Employment and

Economic Development (DEED). The North Saint Paul Affiliate Site is leased and operated by Ramsey County Workforce Solutions. The Specialized Center is incorporated into the Ramsey County space occupied by Ramsey County Workforce Solutions TANF Employment.

Expansion of the hub and spoke model will continue in this program year as TANF and WIOA staff will office part-time at Saint Paul College, Century College and Metropolitan State University. This plan was a direct result of the research, discussion and decision-making of the WIB's Facilities Committee's recommendation from June 26, 2015 and approved by the WIB.

Provision of Basic Career Services and Gender Equity

Basic career services are provided for skill building of adults and youth in the 2018-2019 Local Unified Plan update and in the 2018 Unified Local Youth Plan. Pathways to Prosperity and MJSP projects provide specific opportunities for exposure to non-traditional occupations and training for both genders. Pathways' focus on direct care services in the healthcare sector meets gender equity goals when we enroll, train and place males for these roles. In the MJSP manufacturing grant, we introduce females to these non-traditional roles through skill building, credential attainment and placement in hands-on manufacturing positions. Through the Construction Hiring Connection website and regional construction sector expertise, increasing numbers of females are introduced and connected to construction and trades career information and training. Referrals to partner programs including St Paul College's Women in the Trades program and others occur from information shared on the Construction Hiring Connection and Job ConnectMN websites. The Workforce Innovation Board's Integration Committee will include a detailed focus on gender equity in their planning and implementation of basic career services in the next program year.

Focus on Youth

Reducing educational, skills training and employment disparities based on race, disability and disconnected youth and gender will be an additional focus of our youth committee in the upcoming program years. We will be focusing on full family services by braiding TANF/SNAP and WIOA funding to create comprehensive services for disconnected youth.

One Stop Operator

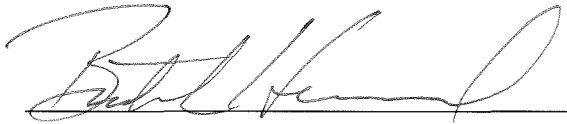
A consortium of three partner organizations was selected as the One Stop Operator (OSO) through a competitive RFP process in June, 2017. In early 2018, the Ramsey County WIB was notified of the need to terminate the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the existing OSO consortium and reissue a new RFP, which includes an estimated value of in-kind services. The new MOU is expected to be in place on May 1, 2018.

WIOA/TANF Integration

Navigators in the Placement and Retention Unit (formerly a TANF-specific unit) will work across all programs (TANF and WIOA) to assist customers in connecting to career pathways, skills training and higher education credentials, work experience and employment opportunities.

New Branding in 2018-2019

CareerForce will be used as the new name for the services we have known as the WorkForce Center. Planning is underway for this major branding change and will be in place sometime during the 2018-2019 program year.



Butch Howard
Chair, Ramsey County Workforce Innovation Board

5/18/2018

Date



Leon Boeckermann
Interim Director, Ramsey County Workforce Solutions

5/17/2018

Date