



Anoka County

HUMAN SERVICES DIVISION

Job Training Center

June 8, 2018

Rick Roy
Workforce Systems Coordination Director
Minnesota Department of Employment & Economic Development
332 Minnesota Street, Suite E200
1st National Bank Building
St. Paul, MN 55101

Subject: Local Unified Plan Program Years 2018-2019 Anoka County Workforce Development Area (#12)

Dear Rick,

On behalf of the Anoka County Workforce Development Board for Local Workforce Development Area 12, a summary of the changes made to the Local Unified Plan for PY 2018-2019 are included below.

Background:

The Anoka County Workforce Development Board last approved the Local Unified Plan in April 2016 for the 2016-2017 program years which was approved by the Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED). DEED has requested an update to all Local Plans which are due to DEED by May 30, 2018. To allow sufficient time for the public notice requirement, an extension has been requested and granted with a new submission date of June 11, 2018. As required, a legal notice was published in the ECM Publications on May 4, 2018, making the public aware that the plan was posted on the Anoka County Job Training Center website for a 30 day public comment period. There were no comments received. The final plan was presented to the Workforce Development Board at the June 7, 2018 meeting and approved.

Executive Summary:

The Anoka County Job Training Center is the designated provider of employment and training programs for WIOA Title 1 Adult, Youth and Dislocated Worker programs in Local Workforce Development Area (LWDA) 12. This Local Plan update presented to the WDB covers the period of July 1, 2018 - June 30, 2020. The items below were identified as the notable changes for the 2018 and 2019 program years.

PY 2018 and 2019 Local Plan Updates:

- Removal of references to DEED's Business Service Representative (BSR) working onsite in the LWDA, since those positions were eliminated by DEED in April 2017.
- Highlighted expanded information on weekly hiring events and the success of three Career Summits held related to Trades, Apprenticeships, and Construction and Career Fairs with Anoka Technical College.
- Added detail related to DEED's Workforce Strategy Consultants for the Metro Region (4) highlighting their work in assisting with the coordination of industry-sector partnerships and the Sector Skills Academy along with supporting career pathway initiatives.
- Added information regarding provision and promotion of information about non-traditional occupations across gender (including industries in demand) and basic and individualized career services.
- Expanded references to participation in the Greater Metropolitan Workforce Council (GMWC) and expanded regional governance and coordination of local/regional strategies such as the Sector Skills Academy.

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- Included information on the CareerForce branding and virtual platform development and implementation.
- Miscellaneous changes to terminology, deletions and additions of descriptions of service, to reflect minor changes in practices and services.
- Updated names and contact information (as of May 2018) on Attachments A, B, & C.

One-Stop Operator

The Anoka County Economic Assistance Department provides TANF economic services was selected as the One-Stop Operator (OSO) through a competitive RFP Process approved at the June 2017 Workforce Development Board meeting. In early 2018, the Anoka County WDB was notified by DEED of the need to terminate the OSO contract with the existing OSO and reissue a new competitive RFP to include an estimated value of OSO services. The Anoka County Procurement Office facilitated this RFP process and worked with a WDB OSO Subcommittee to review applications and provide a recommendation to the WDB at their May 3, 2018 meeting. At this meeting the Anoka County Economic Assistance Department was approved as the OSO and a new contract will commence on July 1, 2018.

WIOA/TANF/SNAP Integration

Senior Vocational Counselors and Career Pathway Navigators intentionally work across all programs (WIOA, State Dislocated and Youth, TANF and SNAP) to assist customers in connecting to career pathways, skill training and higher educational credentials, work experience and employment opportunities to assist families and individuals achieve economic prosperity.

Equity Program Supports for Communities of Color and People with Disabilities

Partnerships with Minneapolis Urban League and Minneapolis American Indian Center continue to be integrated into program service structure and provide resources to the community we serve. Available staff, referrals and culturally centered services provide the community and WorkForce Center imperative resources to meet the needs of those we serve resulting in reduced disparities and increased opportunities.

New Workforce Development System Branding and Platform

Effective October 1, 2018, CareerForce will be used as the new name for the workforce development system we have known as the WorkForce Center statewide. Planning is underway for this major branding change and will include all WorkForce Center partners. The new brand will also include an online virtual one-stop system called the CareerForce Platform. This Platform is in the early stages of development and will also be in place by October 1, 2018. The intention of the Platform is to connect job seekers, career seekers, workforce development system users and employers to statewide, regional and local resources by one centralized system.

Participation in Regional Planning/Collaboration

Upcoming Regional collaboration includes the Sector Academy sponsored by the GMWC and facilitated by the Corporation for a Skilled Workforce and the Aspen Institute. The purpose of launching this academy is to facilitate sector partnership learning and planning sessions for up to 30 workforce development and private sector professionals representing the Construction, IT, Manufacturing, Government, Business & Finance services and the Health Care Industry. An application process has concluded and the GMWC has approved a regional participant list for this year-long Academy which launches in June 2018.

If you have any questions related to the updates in the local plan for Anoka County please contact me.

Kindly,

Nicole Swanson
Director