

Rivers East Workforce Development Board

**North Carolina Modification for
Local Area Workforce Development
Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act
Title I Plans**

July 1, 2026 - June 30, 2027

Introduction and Instructions

The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) requires each Local Area Workforce Development Board (WDB) to develop and submit, in partnership with the chief local elected official (CLEO), a comprehensive four-year plan. Comprehensive Four-Year Plans were submitted in May **2024**.

In North Carolina, annually, each Local Area WDB, in consultation with the chief local elected official, is to provide updates to the Comprehensive Four-Year Plan. The WIOA Program Year (PY) **2026** Plan is to provide current information and be effective **July 1, 2026 - June 30, 2027**, and will include updated current local policies. The Local Area Plan will support the alignment strategy described in the **2024-2027** NC Unified State Plan in accordance with WIOA Section 102(b)(1)(E), and otherwise be consistent with the NC Unified State Plan. Local Area WDBs shall comply with WIOA Section 108 in the preparation and submission of the Plan.

Through its strategic planning efforts, the NCWorks Commission developed a vision and mission for North Carolina's Workforce System. This vision is to build a job-ready workforce to strengthen North Carolina companies, attract new businesses, and ensure our state can adapt to a changing economy. The mission of the state's workforce development system is to ensure North Carolina has an innovative, relevant, effective, and efficient workforce development system that develops adaptable, work-ready, skilled talent to meet the current and future needs of workers and businesses to achieve and sustain economic prosperity and to ensure North Carolinians are ready for the jobs of today and tomorrow by increasing access to education and skills training, fostering employer leadership to prepare workers, and supporting and scaling local innovation.

Federal and State Requirements for Local Administration of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act

Local Area WDBs should reference the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, Public Law 113-128, enacted July 22, 2014. Additional information is available at the U.S. Department of Labor Employment and Training Administration website: <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/eta>.

North Carolina policy information is available at: <https://www.commerce.nc.gov/jobs-training/workforce-professionals-tools-resources/workforce-policies>. Local Area WDBs should reference the North Carolina WIOA Unified State Plan at: <https://www.commerce.nc.gov/north-carolina-wioa-unified-state-plan-2024/open>.

Local Area Plan Submission and Due Date

The Local Area Plan must be submitted through Workforce Information System Enterprise (WISE), the Division's web-based financial system.

The Program Year 2026 Plan is Due: May 4, 2026

Each attachment must be clearly labeled in either Word or PDF format. Forms requiring original signatures may use DocuSign® (or similar) and may be uploaded in WISE.

If original signatures are obtained, forms may be mailed (and must be uploaded in WISE) to the Local Area WDB's assigned Planner at:

Division of Workforce Solutions
313 Chapanoke Road, Suite 120
4316 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-4316

I. Local Area Workforce Development Board (WDB) Overview

The Local Area WDB Overview provides important contact information that is used throughout the Division of Workforce Solutions (DWS). This section must remain current during the Program Year. Updates should be submitted to the Local Area WDB's assigned DWS Planner when changes occur.

In the first section and anywhere else in the Local Area Plan, please include the appropriate salutation along with Titles such as Dr., The Honorable, Chairperson, and Judge.

1. Provide the **Local Area WDB's** official (legal) name as it appears on the local Consortium Agreement established to administer the WIOA or, if not a Consortium, in the formal request for Local Area designation.

Rivers East Workforce Investment Consortium

- If the Local Area is a Consortium and the agreement has been updated since the PY 2025 Plan submission, attach a copy of the current Consortium Agreement. If the Consortium Agreement has not been updated since the PY 2025 Plan submission, state N/A. [Click here to enter text.](#)
 - Name document: Local Area WDB Name Consortium Agreement.
- If the Local Area is not a Consortium and there have been updates to the Local Area designation since the PY 2025 Plan submission, attach a copy of the formal request for Local Area designation. If the Local Area is not a Consortium and there have not been updates since the PY 2025 Plan submission, state N/A. [Click here to enter text.](#)
 - Name document: Local Area WDB Name Local Area Designation Letter.
- If the Local Area WDB officially changed its name, please attach a copy of the Status of Incorporation, attorney's letter, or other document to verify the official name change. If not applicable, state N/A. N/A

2. Provide the name, title, organization name, address, phone number, and email address of the **Local Area WDB Director.**

Name: Jennie Bowen

Title & Salutation: Workforce Development Director

Organization Name: Mid-East Commission

Address: 1502 N Market St, Washington, NC 27889

Phone Number: 252.974.1815

Email Address: jbowen@mideastcom.org

3. Provide the name, elected title, local government affiliation, address, phone number, and email address of the **Chief Local Elected Official (CLEO)**.

Name: Mark C. Smith

Elected Title & Salutation: Chairman

Government Affiliation: c/o Pitt County Commissioners

Address: 171 W 5th Street, Greenville, NC 27834

Phone Number: 252.902.2950

Email Address: janis.gallagher@pittcountync.gov

4. Provide the name, title, business name, address, phone number, and email address of the **individual authorized to receive official mail for the Chief Local Elected Official (CLEO)**, if different than question 3.

Name: Janis Gallagher

Title & Salutation: County Manager

Business Name: Pitt County Government

Address: 1717 W 5th Street, Greenville, NC 27834

Phone Number: 252.902.2950

Email Address: : janis.gallagher@pittcountync.gov

5. Provide the name, title, organization name, address, phone number, and email address of the **Administrative/Fiscal Agent responsible for disbursing Local Area WIOA grant funds**. [WIOA Sections 107(d)(12)(B)(i)(III) and 108(b)(15)].

Name: N. Bryant Buck

Title & Salutation: Executive Director

Organization Name: Mid-East Commission

Address: 1502 N Market Street, Washington, NC 27889

Phone Number: 252.974.1844

Email Address: bbuck@mid-eastcom.org

6. Provide the name, title, organization name, address, phone number, and email address of the **Administrative/Fiscal Agent's signatory official**.

Name: N. Bryant Buck

Title & Salutation: Executive Director

Organization Name: Mid-East Commission

Address: 1502 N Market Street, Washington, NC 27889

Phone Number: 252.974.1844

Email Address: bbuck@mid-eastcom.org

7. Attach a copy of the **Administrative Entity/Fiscal Agent's organizational chart** with an 'effective as of date'.

- Name document: Administrative Entity Name Organizational Chart.

8. Provide the **Administrative Entity's Unique Entity Identifier (UEI)** number and assurance that the 'System for Award Management' (SAM) status is current. Administrative Entities must register at least annually on the SAM website <https://sam.gov/content/home> to receive Federal funding [required by Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) Section 4.11 and Section 52.204-7].

DUNS Number: 173851528

UEI Number: FE1SNK136NL4

Assurances are given that the SAM status is current and up to date

9. Provide the name of the **Local Area WDB's Equal Opportunity Officer** who shall be responsible for assuring that discrimination does not occur in its programs or projects. (CPS 10-2021, Change 1)

Kimberly Laws, Compliance Manager

10. Provide each **Local Area WDB member's** name, business title, business name and address, phone number, and email address on the provided form. The first block is reserved to identify the Local Area WDB chairperson (*form provided*). Indicate all required representation and if the category is vacant. [WIOA Section 107(b)(2)].

- Name document: Local Area WDB Name Board List.
- Composition of the Local Area WDBs shall comply with WIOA Section 107. Local Area WDB Membership Requirements have been provided as a reference in [Appendix D](#).
- If a Local Area WDB list is not in compliance, please provide the current list and state the expected date that a compliant list will be provided (detailing vacant positions). Do not change required category names except to clarify those representing multiple categories. When determining the total number of members, representatives serving in more than one category must be counted and listed only once on the form. Identify any names representing a dual category with an asterisk (*).

Notes:

- Please complete the entire form. Check the block on the last page of the form certifying compliance with the required WIOA Local Area WDB business nomination process.
 - Representatives with expired terms will not be included in the counted list of Board members.
 - Board member terms must be stated in a month/date/year format.
 - Plans that do not have a compliant workforce Board will not receive Final Approval. Formula funds will not be awarded until the Local Area WDB has a compliant workforce Board. Exceptions are allowed only when realignment is occurring in the upcoming program year.
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The Chief Local Elected Official must establish by-laws consistent with applicable local procedures, state, and federal laws to include WIOA Final Rules and Regulations 679.310(g). The Local Area WDB shall submit by-laws that clearly demonstrate all WIOA and North Carolina required elements described in [Appendix A](#). Additional by-laws guidance/template and electronic meeting formats have been provided in [Appendix B](#) and [Appendix C](#).

11. Attach the Local Area WDB By-Laws including the date of adoption or more recent amendment, if any revisions have been made since the PY 2025 Plan submission. Please state N/A if there are no updates to the By-Laws for the PY 2026 plan submission, and state the Plan year the By-laws were last submitted. By-Laws must include the required elements found in [Appendix A](#). [Click here to enter text](#).

- Name document: Local Area WDB Name By-Laws.

12. To demonstrate that the attached Local Area WDB By-Laws comply, complete the By-Laws Required Elements – Crosswalk chart if the By-Laws have been updated since the PY 2025 Plan submission (form provided). Please state N/A if the By-Laws have not been updated since the PY 2025 Plan submission, and state the Plan year the Crosswalk chart was last submitted. [Click here to enter text](#).

- Name document: Local Area WDB Name By-Laws Required Elements- Crosswalk chart.

Sunshine Provision – The Local Area WDB shall make available to the public, on a regular basis through electronic means and open meetings, information regarding the activities of the Local Area WDB, including information regarding the Local Area Plan prior to submission of the Local Area Plan, and regarding membership, the designation and certification of one-stop operators, and the award of grants or contracts to eligible providers of youth workforce investment activities, and on request, minutes of formal meetings of the Local Area WDB. [WIOA Section 107(e)]

13. Describe how the Local Area WDB will make copies of the proposed Local Area Plan available to the public. If stating the Local Area Plan will be on the Local Area WDB website, provide the link, as well as the individual’s contact information for the distribution of the Plan. [WIOA Section 108(d) and 108(b)(20)]

Rivers East will make copies of the proposed Local Plan available to the public for review and for comment beginning May 15, 2025 for a period of 30 days, ending June 16, 2025. A link to the proposed Local Plan will be placed on the Rivers East WDB website (www.riverseastwdb.org) and the Mid-East Commission website (www.mideastcom.org). The plan will also be submitted electronically to all Consortium members and each WDB member. Interested citizens are encouraged to review the plan and submit comments to Jennie Bowen, jbowen@mideastcom.org. At the close of the public comment period, a list of all comments will be compiled and submitted to the Division Planner.

Public Comment – The Local Area WDB shall make copies of the proposed Local Area Plan available to the public through electronic and other means, such as public hearings and local news media; allow for public comment not later than the end of the 30-day period beginning on the date the proposed Local Area Plan is made available; and, include with submission of the Local Area Plan any comments that represent disagreement with the Local Area Plan. [WIOA Section 108(d) and 108(b)(20)]

14. Attach a copy of the Local Area WDB’s organizational chart with an ‘effective as of date.’ Include position titles, names, and contact information.

- Name document: Local Area WDB Name Organizational Chart.

15. Complete the following chart for the PY 2026 Local Area WDB’s planned meeting schedule to include, the date, time, location, and virtual link (if applicable). (Expand form as needed)

Date	Time	Location (include address, room # and virtual link)
September 9, 2026	3:00pm	Hybrid via Zoom and in person (location TBA)
November 11, 2026	3:00pm	Hybrid via Zoom and in person (location TBA)
January 13, 2027	3:00pm	Hybrid via Zoom and in person (location TBA)
March 10, 2027	3:00pm	Hybrid via Zoom and in person (location TBA)
May 12, 2027	3:00pm	Hybrid via Zoom and in person (location TBA)

Note: All Local Area WDB meetings shall be held in accessible facilities. All materials and discussions should be available in an accessible format upon request as indicated under North Carolina-specific requirements detailed in [Appendix A](#).

16. Provide the Month and Date of the Local Area WDB meeting that the PY 2026 Local Area Plan was approved. Attach a copy of the Local Area WDB minutes that reflect this action item.

- Name document: Local Area WDB Name Plan Approval Minutes.

17. Attach a copy of the signed ‘Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, and Other Responsibility Matters – Primary Covered Transactions’ Form (*form provided*). [Required by the Regulations implementing Executive Order 12549, Debarment and Suspension, 2 CFR 180, participants’ responsibilities.]

- Name document: *Local Area WDB Name Certification Form*.

Documents must have the original signature or DocuSign® (or similar) of the Administrative Entity signatory official. If using original signatures, mail the signed Certification form to the assigned DWS Planner at:

N.C. Division of Workforce Solutions
313 Chapanoke Road, Suite 120
4316 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-4316

18. Submit the original Local Area WDB and Chief Local Elected Official (CLEO) Signatory Page (*form provided*), bearing the original signatures of the CLEO(s) and the Local Area WDB Chairperson, and attach a copy of the signed document if not using DocuSign® (or similar).

- Name document: *Local Area WDB Name Signatory Page*.

If using original signatures, mail the Signatory Page to the assigned DWS Planner at:

N.C. Division of Workforce Solutions
313 Chapanoke Road, Suite 120
4316 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-4316

II. Local Area WDB Strategic Planning

The Local Area WDB is required to keep the Local Area Plan up to date and adaptable as events and funding changes occur, which may require local area responses. Local Area Plans will require an annual modification. North Carolina has implemented integrated services delivery with an enhanced emphasis on regional planning and services. This approach is consistent with federal, state, and regional initiatives and opportunities. North Carolina's workforce development system includes businesses, organizations, agencies, employed and unemployed persons, training and educational institutions, adults, and youth. To enhance services to all constituents, aligning workforce development planning and services with regional labor markets is both effective and productive.

At the local level, the Local Area WDBs are creatively working to address the new challenges of job growth and expansions. Employers in Local Area WDB areas continue to have a shortage of lower-wage, entry-level and middle-skilled level workers. As a Local Area WDB and workforce system, Local Area WDBs are leveraging resources and engaging in new partnerships that include the business community, economic developers, chambers of commerce, NCWorks Career Centers, community colleges, public schools, and community partners. Working together, Local Area WDBs are paving the way for an even stronger economy through sector partnerships and career pathways initiatives.

1. Based on the history of economic development projects in the Local Area, please describe your engagement with local, regional, and state economic developers including industries of focus, frequency of collaboration, and the number of anticipated projects the Local Area WDB expects to engage in during the upcoming program year? Please indicate the type of services the Local Area WDB expects to provide.

The Rivers East Workforce Development Board is currently working with local, regional and state economic developers on multiple potential projects across the region that are at varying stages. In addition, we have knowledge of several projects where our local economic developers have submitted information for consideration of location in our region. We expect to begin seeing the impacts of two large project announced in the coming year- Nipro in Pitt County and US Forged Rings in Hertford County. A collaborative plan for hiring a workforce is being completed along with input from our partner agencies. At this time, there are also multiple pending projects named.

2. Identify any **new** Career Pathways developed by the Local Area since the last Local Area Plan submission. Complete the chart below.

Pathway Name	Partner WDBs	Year the pathway was developed	Number of trainees (to date) who have utilized the pathway
N/A	Click here to enter text.	Click here to enter text.	Click here to enter text.
Click here to enter text.	Click here to enter text.	Click here to enter text.	Click here to enter text.

Click here to enter text. Click here to enter text. Click here to enter text. Click here to enter text.

a. Does the Local Area have plans for the creation and implementation of new career pathways?

There are no plans to develop any new career pathways at this time. However, we are looking are ways to re-engage the employer partners to potentially use the existing pathways as a backbone for developing sector partnerships.

III. NCWorks Career Centers

North Carolina's workforce system includes multiple agencies, programs, and funders. Collaboration, policy alignment, systemic communication, integration, and modernization of the workforce system will ensure a strong and healthy workforce system that can adapt to a changing economy.

For any documents that are missing or are unnecessary based on the response provided, please state, "No document is loaded and/or it will be loaded by a specific date".

1. Identify PY 2026 NCWorks Career Center location(s) including Comprehensive (Tier I) and Access Points (Affiliate or Specialized) Sites; On-site partners; how NCWorks Career Center operator(s) are designated and procurement information; provider(s) of WIOA career services and method of selection; whether the youth service provider is on-site and, if so, youth services offered. Use the PY 2026 NCWorks Career Center Chart. [WIOA Section 121(b)(1)(A) and (b)(1)(B)]

- Name document: *Local Area WDB Name PY 2026 NCWorks Career Centers.*

2. Provide the name(s) of the current One-Stop provider(s), date, and process for when the competitive procurement of the One-Stop Operator(s) occurred. Include the expected length of the contract(s) (one to four years and the current year the contract is (e.g., two of three years). [WIOA Section 108(b)(16)]

PowerNotes was contracted to oversee the procurement process to avoid a conflict of interest. The formal RFP was released on Friday, March 13, a mandatory Intent to Apply deadline was set for March 20, followed by a mandatory in-person bidders conference on April 2 at 3:00 PM, with a proposal submission deadline of April 23 at 4:30 PM. Committee recommendations are expected on May 12, with a full board recommendation on May 13.

3. Attach the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Local Area WDB and partners concerning the operation of the NCWorks Career Center system. [WIOA Section 121(c)(1)(2)(A)]

- Name document: *Local Area WDB Name NCWorks Career Center MOU.*

IV. Performance

The U.S. Department of Labor (USDOL) has the following WIOA Performance Indicators:

- Employment Rate – 2nd Quarter After Exit
- Employment Rate – 4th Quarter After Exit
- Median Earnings – 2nd Quarter After Exit
- Credential Attainment Rate
- Measurable Skill Gains
- Effectiveness in Serving Employers (system-wide measure, not program-specific)

1. Examine the Local Area WDB's current Adult, Dislocated Worker, and Youth performance on the Federal Primary Indicators of Performance for PY 2024-2025 and prior Program Years. (Reports available via FutureWorks BI.) What are some factors that have impacted performance levels both positively and negatively in the current program year?
 - a. Provide at least two examples of positive factors and two examples of negative factors with an explanation of each. Some examples to consider include:
 - unemployment rate
 - factory closures/openings
 - economic development recruitment
 - retention and expansion efforts
 - regional industry growth priorities
 - weather events and natural disasters that may have impacted the area
 - internal operational factors
 - b. Are there any factors that you anticipate will impact your performance during the upcoming program year(s) either positively or negatively?

The primary factors that impact local performance include the unemployment rate, community college attendance rate, number of new and expanding businesses, number of layoffs, and barriers to employment. On a positive note, the unemployment rate continues to remain lower than prior years which is positive for our citizens and improves the employment rate. With more individuals employed and an increase the amount of earnings with more full time employment and a higher entry level wage rate, the median earnings has increased. As a negative, it also creates a lower number of individuals available needing service and often those who remain are the harder to serve with multiple barriers to employment. This also means less individuals seeking classroom training, or they are seeking shorter term training. This, along with employers hiring students before they can complete training and individuals completing training but not successfully completing state licensure has caused credential attainment to be a constant focus. While there may be measurable skill gain increases, and increases in employment rates, credential rates have suffered. So while we met or exceeded all of our performance measures for PY24, we see the potential positive factor that more individuals are entering the workforce and how it also could be a negative impact of less skilled workers with

credentials and certifications available in the region, which could impact future economic development projects.. With new and expanding businesses, the opportunity for local employment increases, however, not all companies have increased their wages in line, so not all are at or above the median wage required to meet performance. While we focus on promoting "good jobs" the need is great across the board from local employers, for unskilled to highly skilled labor. Our region was very fortunate and saw only the one major layoff in the past year, with a WARN notice being issued. With the continued focus on small businesses, we see the struggle to find workers even with substantial pay rate increases. While for some skilled positions a skill gap remains in finding qualified workers, it seems the issue now can be best described as a "will gap"- as many are not willing to return to the workforce or remain employed long term at any one employer.

b. With local unemployment numbers being lower than many areas, the candidate pool available for employment and training remains limited, our labor force participation rate has dropped and often this segment of the workforce will have more barriers to achieve sustainable employment. Like the community colleges, we have seen fewer participants expressing interest in long term or curriculum training, even with all of the additional grants and scholarship funds available. Instead those interested in making career changes are focused on short term skill employment that results in more sustainable and in demand jobs, such as truck driving. Suitability, completion of the credential, and related employment rates seem to be lower for this training overall, with higher than usual cost. With diversifying our enrollments and increasing our focus on work based learning and incumbent worker training, we have hopefully made the necessary moves to ensure we continue to meet or exceed our performance goals.

2. What strategies and methods are in place to meet or exceed performance goals? Include information about tracking performance, ensuring accountability of positive performance outcomes, and training.

Consider including the following information:

- Who is responsible for tracking performance?
- Which reporting resources are used?
- Is FutureWorks BI employed? If so, how, and how often?
- How often is training provided to staff?

Consistent program oversight is a primary duty of the Rivers East Performance and Accountability Specialist, along with the WDB Director. The ability to interpret indicators to monitor the progress of the WIOA programs based on performance criteria and attainment of set goals is indicative of the regions past and future performance goals. Monthly desk monitoring is performed on program performance and contractor monthly reimbursement forms including line item budget tracking of training expenditure to ensure the appropriate percentage of expenditures.

Reports are run in NCWorks and distributed to operators to monitor performance. The Super User assists in recording/correcting data as applicable. Deficiencies and nonattainment of LA goals are addressed with the WDB and operator. Areas of performance are addressed, and training is provided at quarterly training sessions. Progress on indicators is also monitored through Futureworks and predictive reports are being utilized to track performance at the individual level.

Technical assistance is provided on a one-on-one basis in support of attainment of performance measures is

also provided in areas such as: data entry and accurate recording of services, improvement in assessment and suitability screening, timely follow up, assistance with overcoming barriers, maintaining contact, career counseling, reporting of all supplemental data in NCWorks, increased coordination of services with other entities, and employability skills training.

It is with a keen eye on the details and business instincts that the Workforce Development Board will work diligently to ensure that all federal and state performance outcomes are met.

3. Discuss what corrective action steps are in place if, at any point during the program year, the Local Area WDB is not on track to meet or exceed yearly performance indicator goals.

This question is intended to be hypothetical and is seeking what plan the Local Area WDB has in place to address failing performance, if it were to occur. Answers should address how the Local Area WDB:

- monitors performance,
- communicates with staff,
- makes changes to Local Area WDB performance and training strategies based on reporting data,
- and utilizes follow-up accountability measures.

The Rivers East WDB staff monitors performance at least bi-monthly and communicates results to both the staff and the board via email. NCWorks Reports are utilized monthly to identify failure to properly enter/key activities, services, credentials and MSG's and communicated to staff in addition to utilizing the predictive rosters in FutureWorks. FutureWorks data is also shared with the Board when updates are available. Discussions are held in meetings with staff monthly and with training held with direct service staff at least quarterly concerning performance. The Board is currently reviewing policy and procedure to address potential deficiencies.

4. How is performance information shared throughout the hierarchy of career center staff? Please detail how the Local Area WDB addresses performance data in its relationship with its service provider(s) and how staff are using performance data to drive Local Area WDB performance.

Consider including the following information:

- a. How is performance tracked in your organization?
- b. How is performance information communicated with all career center staff?
- c. How are career center staff/service providers held accountable?
- d. How is training provided in your organization/career centers?

a. Performance is tracked using NCWorks reports and Future Works. Consistent program oversight is a primary duty of the Rivers East Performance and Accountability Specialist, along with the WDB Director. The ability to interpret indicators to monitor the progress of the WIOA programs based on performance criteria and attainment of set goals is indicative of the regions past and future performance goals. Monthly desk monitoring is performed on program performance and contractor monthly reimbursement forms including line-item budget tracking of training expenditure to ensure the appropriate percentage of

expenditures.

b. WDB staff provide performance information to Center management (including program management) at least monthly. Such information is expected to be shared with the Career Advisors and deficiencies discussed and addressed. Staff receive additional training on performance measures and the impact each staff and customer has on attaining overall performance. Specific contractor performance data is shared with their local management team and directly with local career advisors.

c. Performance data and enrollment reports are updated and shared with each Committee, the Board, and contractor at least monthly. This data is also shared with service provider management and local Career Advisors to drive actions and corrections to increase the performance. An example would be credential rates. If a contractor is not currently meeting their credential rate, board staff work closely with the contractor to follow up and identify credentials received but not properly recorded.

d. Training is provided one-on-one and through scheduled quarterly training sessions. Technical assistance is provided on a one-on-one basis in support of attainment of performance measures is also provided in areas such as: data entry and accurate recording of services, improvement in assessment and suitability screening, timely follow up, assistance with overcoming barriers, maintaining contact, career counseling, reporting of all supplemental data in NCWorks, increased coordination of services with other entities, and employability skills training.

5. Discuss the factors that contribute to the Local Area WDB's credential attainment indicator.

- a. What are the challenges that the Local Area WDB faces in achieving its credential attainment goal?
- b. What are some of the strategies that contribute to the Local Area WDB's success in achieving its credential attainment goal?
- c. How do case managers make use of NCcareers.org and the NC Workforce Credentials list?

a. The challenges in reaching credential attainment goals are a combination of things. The offerings by the community college and other providers varies across the region. Often the focus is on the completion of the course and there is not a employer recognized credential as a result. In addition, completion of the course does not guarantee attainment of the credential.

b. One strategy implemented for the NA I Course was to require a Silver CRC, per the ACT Profile of the curriculum. This greatly increased the course completion and state licensing rate. For CDL Truck Driver Training, we began requiring a TABE test and evaluated the score to determine their reading proficiency prior to enrollment to ensure they would be able to obtain their permit and their license.

c. NCCareers.org is required as part of the enrolmment process in our region for cusomters who are seeking classroom training assistance to ensure we are helping them find a career and not just a job. The NCWorkforce Credentials list is utilized to ensure the credential being sought is viable and results in an industry recognized credential that is included in performance.

6. When selecting an eligible training provider from the State Eligible Training Provider List (ETPL) to certify for local use, what is the review process the Local Area WDB uses to make this decision? How does the Local Area WDB ensure informed customer choice in the selection of training providers? In other words, how are customers advised that they have options in choosing their provider? [WIOA Section 108(b)(19)]

Rivers East's goal is to offer a wide variety of training programs and occupational choices that are in demand and align with our established career pathways. Current programs, along with any additional local area approved programs, are evaluated based on demonstrated performance regarding credentialing/licensure rates and employment rates along with the capacity to provide comprehensive training at a reasonable cost. The Super User and the Director review all new providers or programs for relevance to the local labor market before approval. Providers are reviewed every two years on program outcomes including overall program completion rate, WIOA completion rate, and training completers and noncompleters that enter employment. This list of programs by provider is shared with and approved by the WDB.

A full list of eligible providers and programs is available on NCWorks Online. The list is reviewed with any customer who expresses a need and/or interest in training. Rivers East most often utilizes the local community college and university system, along with private providers for classroom training. Local area staff will continue to ensure many competent providers are available to maximize customer choice. A training research worksheet is often provided to the customer for them to research all available option to ensure they choose the one that is the best fit for them.

7. Indicate whether the Local Area WDB has additional requirements for training providers above and beyond those requirements stated in the State ETPL policy. Does the Local Area WDB make use of USDOL's trainingproviderresults.gov website in its evaluation of which training providers to certify for local area use? If so, how? Attach the Local Area ETPL Policy, **only** if the policy has been revised for the PY 2026 Plan and has not been previously submitted to the DWS Planner. If the Local Area ETPL Policy has not been revised for the PY 2026 Plan submission, please state N/A, and state the Plan year the Local Area ETPL Policy was last submitted.

Rivers East follows the state ETPL Policy and evaluates training providers based on performance, cost and local labor market needs.

- Name Document: Local Area WDB Name ETPL Policy.

V. Equal Opportunity

1. Attach the Local Area WDB's current Equal Opportunity (EO) Complaint Grievance Procedure to address EO requirements, **only** if the policy has been revised for the PY 2026 Plan and has not been previously submitted to the DWS Planner. If the EO Complaint Grievance Procedure has not been updated for the PY

2026 Plan submission, please state N/A, and state the Plan year the EO Complaint Grievance Procedure was last submitted. [29 CFR 38.35]. [Click here to enter text.](#)

- Name document: *Local Area WDB Name EO Complaint Grievance Procedure.*

VI. Adult and Dislocated Worker Services

1. Provide the date and process for the competitive procurement of the Adult and Dislocated Worker Programs that ensure an arms-length relationship between the Local Area WDB and service delivery. Include the expected length of the contract(s) (one to three years and the current year status of the contract (e.g., two of three years). Identify any service provider contract extensions. [WIOA Section 108(b)(16), CPS 02-2026]

PowerNotes was contracted to oversee the procurement process for PY26 to avoid a conflict of interest. The formal RFP was released on Friday, March 13, a mandatory Intent to Apply deadline was set for March 20, followed by a mandatory in-person bidders conference on April 2 at 3:00 PM, with a proposal submission deadline of April 23 at 4:30 PM. Committee recommendations are expected on May 12, with a full board recommendation on May 13.

Note: While Final Regulations Section 679.410 (b) and (c) provide exceptions to the competitive procurement process, Local Area WDBs must have an arms-length relationship to the delivery of services.

2. Attach the Local Area WDB's Adult/Dislocated Worker Service Provider list effective July 1, 2026, using the PY 2026 Adult/Dislocated Worker Service Provider List [provided](#).

- Name document: *Local Area WDB Name PY 2026 Adult/Dislocated Worker Service Provider List.*

3. How does the Local Area WDB ensure that the minimum of 6% of non-administrative Adult funds is spent on registered apprenticeship/pre-apprenticeship activities and is the Local Area WDB expending the 6% minimum on registered apprenticeship/pre-apprenticeship activities? [*The total 6% expenditure may be comprised of non-administrative WIOA Title I Adult funds, Youth funds, or a combination of both. (CPS 04-2025)*]

The Local Area Workforce Development Board (WDB) ensures that a minimum of 6% of non-administrative Adult funds are dedicated to registered apprenticeship and pre-apprenticeship activities through intentional program design, targeted staff roles, and strategic partnerships.

The Local Area has designated a Business Engagement Coordinator who is responsible for identifying apprenticeship opportunities, building employer relationships, and promoting apprenticeship and pre-apprenticeship pathways to both businesses and participants. This role supports ongoing development and expansion of apprenticeship programs within the region.

Additionally, the Local Area has launched the Eastern NC Workforce and Industry Network (ENC WIN), which serves as a centralized hub for apprenticeship activities. Through ENC WIN, the WDB acts as an apprenticeship sponsor and manages administrative requirements in coordination with ApprenticeshipNC. This streamlined approach reduces barriers for employers by handling program development, registration, and paperwork, while also allowing businesses to opt into existing apprenticeship models.

To further support participation, the Local Area has revised its Priority of Service policy to allow Adult participants entering registered apprenticeship programs to be served without meeting traditional low-income eligibility requirements. This flexibility increases access to apprenticeship opportunities and supports employer demand.

VII. Youth Services

USDOL provides funds to states who in turn provide local workforce areas resources to deliver a comprehensive array of youth services that focus on assisting out-of-school youth and in-school youth with one or more barriers to employment, prepare for post-secondary education and employment opportunities, attain educational and/or skills training credentials, and secure employment with career/promotional opportunities. USDOL and North Carolina's priorities are:

- *Out-of-School Youth (OSY) – A minimum of 75% of the Youth funds allocated to Local Area WDBs, except for the Local Area WDB expenditures for administration, must be used to provide services to OSY;*
- *Work Experience – Not less than 20% of Youth funds allocated to the Local Area WDB, except for the Local Area WDB expenditures for administration, must be used to provide paid and unpaid work experiences;*
- *Registered Apprenticeship – A minimum 6% of Youth and Adult funds allocated to the Local Area WDB, except for the Local Area WDB expenditures for administration, must be used to provide registered apprenticeship/pre-apprenticeship activities. The expenditures may be comprised of Adult funds, Youth funds, or a combination of both; and a*
- *Focus on Partnering – Co-enrollment is encouraged where appropriate with Title II and IV.*

1. Attach the Local Area WDB Youth Service Provider's chart, effective July 1, 2026, using the PY 2026 Youth Service Provider List provided. Complete each column to include specifying where Youth Services are provided and procurement information.

- Name the document: *PY 2026 Local Area WDB Name Youth Service Provider List.*

2. Provide the date and process for the competitive procurement of the Youth Programs that ensures an arm's-length relationship between the Local Area WDB and service delivery. Include the expected length of the contract(s) (one to three years and the current year status of the contract (e.g., two to three years). Identify any service provider contract extensions. [WIOA Section 108(b)(16), CPS 04-2022, Change 1]

Click here to enter text. PowerNotes was contracted to oversee the procurement process for PY26 to avoid a conflict of interest. The formal RFP was released on Friday, March 13, a mandatory Intent to Apply deadline was set for March 20, followed by a mandatory in-person bidders conference on April 2 at 3:00 PM, with a proposal submission deadline of April 23 at 4:30 PM. Committee recommendations are expected on May 12, with a full board recommendation on May 13.

3. Provide the Local Area WDB's approach to meeting the required 75% minimum (NextGen) youth expenditures on out-of-school youth and include special outreach efforts and highlight planned program design.

The Rivers East area NextGen program is designed to serve out of school youth and meet or exceed the 75% requirement through management of enrollments and expenditure rates which are established at the beginning of the PY and monitored monthly. The budget is established for expenditure of at least 75% of funds on out of school youth and 30% on work based learning.

Outreach and recruitment must be held at locations and with agencies that serve out-of-school youth, such as, but not limited to community based organizations, community colleges, housing authorities, faith based, DSS, health department, and local juvenile justice or other defender services. Recruitment events are held at locations where out-of-school youth frequent. A strong partnership has been built with the Title II Adult Education and Family Literacy providers at our four community colleges to dually enroll individuals in both programs which is a win-win for both programs. In addition, social media and technology tools are provided to allow potential participants to engage in services from wherever they may be. The use of Text Request, QR codes, and Virtual Reality headsets assist with recruitment and tracking of referrals.

4. How does the Local Area WDB ensure that the minimum of 20% of funds is spent on work experience and is the Local Area WDB expending the 20% minimum on work experience, to include an estimate of expenditures that will be paid wages to youth? If the Local Area WDB has not been meeting the minimum of 20% of funds, please explain additional measures to be taken this year. [WIOA Section 129(c)(4)] (CPS 09-2021, Change 1)

Rivers East requires at least 30% of all funds to be budgeted for work-based learning opportunities such as paid work experience and on-the-job training. Expenditures are monitored monthly and reports provided to the Committee and Board bi-monthly. To support placement in work-based learning opportunities, the provider's Business Services Representative works closely with the Career Advisor to track participants, their career goal and progress. When ready, they work together to secure appropriate work-based learning sites for the youth to get hands on experience in their desired field of work.

Rivers East WDB met the 20% minimum expenditure goal for PY24 funds. Additional projects such as Our State Our Work/Carolina Across 100 and our involvement with the Bertie County Coalition related to increasing our attainment rate (myFutureNC) has improved our enrollment and expenditure rate.

5. How does the Local Area WDB ensure that the minimum of 6% of non-administrative Youth funds is spent on registered apprenticeship/pre-apprenticeship activities and is the Local Area WDB expending the 6% minimum on registered apprenticeship/pre-apprenticeship activities? [*The total 6% expenditure may be comprised of non-administrative WIOA Title I Adult funds, Youth funds, or a combination of both.* (CPS 04-2025)]

The Local Area Workforce Development Board (WDB) ensures that a minimum of 6% of non-administrative Adult funds are dedicated to registered apprenticeship and pre-apprenticeship activities through intentional program design, targeted staff roles, and strategic partnerships.

The Local Area has designated a Business Engagement Coordinator who is responsible for identifying apprenticeship opportunities, building employer relationships, and promoting apprenticeship and pre-apprenticeship pathways to both businesses and participants. This role supports ongoing development and expansion of apprenticeship programs within the region.

Additionally, the Local Area has launched the Eastern NC Workforce and Industry Network (ENC WIN), which serves as a centralized hub for apprenticeship activities. Through ENC WIN, the WDB acts as an apprenticeship sponsor and manages administrative requirements in coordination with ApprenticeshipNC. This streamlined approach reduces barriers for employers by handling program development, registration, and paperwork, while also allowing businesses to opt into existing apprenticeship models.

To further support participation, the Local Area has revised its Priority of Service policy to allow Adult participants entering registered apprenticeship programs to be served without meeting traditional low-income eligibility requirements. This flexibility increases access to apprenticeship opportunities and supports employer demand.

6. Specify if the Local Area WDB plans to offer incentives for (NextGen) youth. If yes, please state the plan year that the most current Youth Incentive Policy was provided. Please upload **only** if the policy has been revised for the PY 2026 Plan and has not been previously submitted to the DWS Planner. The policy should include:
- criteria to be used to award incentives;
 - type(s) of incentive awards to be made available;
 - whether WIOA funds will be used; and
 - the Local Area WDB's internal controls to safeguard cash/gift cards.

The Youth Incentive Policy was updated at our March 11, 2026 Board Meeting.

- Name document: Local Area WDB Name Youth Incentive Policy.

Note: Federal funds may not be spent on entertainment costs. Youth Incentive Policies should include: compliance with the Cost Principles in 2 CFR part 200; identify types of items that may be awarded (gift cards, plaques, certificates, checks); identify types of achievements/completion of activities (an inclusive list is required); practices for internal controls for safeguarding incentives, and provide a sample list of required documentation for reimbursement (diploma, evaluations).

7. If the Local Area WDB does not offer incentives for (NextGen) youth, please explain why.

N/A

8. Please complete the Youth Program Elements chart provided to demonstrate how the Local Area WDB ensures each of the 14 youth program elements is made available to youth participants. Be certain to complete both columns of the chart to demonstrate partnerships and the potential use of shared funding. Please specify partners. [WIOA Section 129(c)(2)(A)]

- Name document: Local Area WDB Name Youth Program Elements Chart.

9. Does the Local Area WDB have a standing committee to provide information to assist with planning, operational, and other issues relating to the provision of services to youth? [WIOA Section 107(b)(4)(A)(ii)]

Yes

- a. If no, describe how oversight to planning, operational, and other issues relating to the provision of services to youth will be provided.

N/A

- b. If yes, please provide a response to the following:

- a) Provide the committee's purpose/vision.

The mission statement of NextGen Youth Committee is to provide information and assist with planning, operational and other issues relating to the provision of services to youth, which shall include community-based organizations with a demonstrated record of success in serving eligible youth.

b) Provide the youth committee’s top three goals or objectives for PY 2026.

Strengthen and improve work-based learning to provide opportunities for career exploration including identifying in-demand careers based on local labor market information and NCCareers.org results.

Innovative program design and implementation including increasing cohort and group activities for work-readiness skills using GADJ and Skills USA, expand the use of the VR headsets, and creating more real-world exposure through planned events

Implement a system for continuous recruitment of youth to the program by expanding outreach and assisting the provider in developing a vibrant, dedicated outreach and recruitment plan.

c) Provide a list of youth committee members to include members’ agency/organization, one of which must be a community-based organization with a demonstrated record of success in serving eligible youth. Provide the Committee’s Chair information in the first block (*who must be a Local Area WDB member*).

- Name document: Local Area WDB Name Youth Committee Members [WIOA Section 107(b)(4)(A)(ii)]

c. Complete the following chart for the PY 2026 Youth Committee’s planned meeting schedule to include dates, times, and locations. (Expand form as needed or mark Not Applicable.)

Date	Time	Location (include address and room #)
September 8, 2026	4pm	Zoom
November 10, 2026	4pm	Zoom
January 12, 2027	4pm	Zoom
March 9, 2027	4pm	Zoom
May 11, 2027	4pm	Zoom

VIII. Program Year 2026 Local Area WDB Plan Required Updated Policy Attachments

1. The following policies, **if updated** since the PY 2025 Plan submission, are *required* to be attached as separate documents in WISE as part of the PY 2026 Local Area Plan. The Local Area Plan is not complete without these documents.

- Name Each Document: Local Area WDB Name, Policy Name.

- In the first column, state if the policy is attached or why it is missing and when it can be expected. If two of the policies have been combined, please make a notation.
- In the second column mark “Yes” **only** if the policy has been revised for the PY 2026 Plan and has not been previously submitted to the DWS Planner.
- In the third column indicate the Plan Year the policy was last submitted, **only** if it is **not** being submitted for the PY 2026 Plan.
- Revised policies **must** be submitted with a highlight or summary of the changes made to the local policy.
- Do not add an empty document in WISE as a “placeholder”.

Required Local Area WDB Policies	New or Revised and needs review (Yes/No)	Plan Year Policy was last submitted
1. Adult/Dislocated Worker Experience Policy	Click here to enter text.	
2. Competitive Procurement Policy	Click here to enter text.	
3. Conflict of Interest Policy	Click here to enter text.	
4. Nondiscrimination/Equal Opportunity Standards and Complaint Procedures	Click here to enter text.	
5. Financial Management Policy for Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Title I	Click here to enter text.	
6. Individual Training Account Policy	Click here to enter text.	
7. On-the-Job Training Policy	Revised 1/14/26	
8. Oversight Monitoring Policy, Tool and Schedule	Click here to enter text.	
9. Priority of Service Policy	Revised 11/12/25	
10. Youth Work Experience Policy	Click here to enter text.	
11. Supportive Services Policy	Click here to enter text.	
12. Local Area WDB WIOA and TAA Co-Enrollment Policy	Click here to enter text.	
13. Eligible Training Provider Policy	Click here to enter text.	
14. Non-Criminal Complaint Procedures	Click here to enter text.	
15. Apprenticeship/Pre-Apprenticeship Policy	Click here to enter text.	

2. Designate whether the following local *Optional Policies* have been **updated** and are included in the Local Area Plan or write “N/A” implying “Not Applicable” if the Local Area WDB does not have this policy and; therefore, does not use these services.

- In the second, column mark “Yes” **only** if the policy has been changed for PY 2026 and has not been previously submitted to the DWS Planner.
- Do not add a blank document in WISE as a “placeholder”.
- These policies are required to operate/offer these services.
- If “Yes”, load the policy as a separate document.
- In the third column, indicate the Plan Year the policy was last submitted, **only** if it is **not** being submitted for the PY 2026 Plan.
- Revised policies should be submitted with a highlight or summary of the changes made to the local policy.
- Name document: Local Area WDB Name, Policy Name. (Example: IWT Policy – Yes. Attached as Board Name IWT Policy.)

Optional Local Area WDB Policies	Yes - the Local Area WDB has a policy or N/A (Not Applicable)	New or Revised and needs review (Yes or N/A)	Plan Year Policy was last submitted
1. Local Area WDB Guidance for Local Incumbent Worker Grants	Click here to enter text.	Click here to enter text.	
2. Local Area WDB Needs-Related Payment Policy	Click here to enter text.	Click here to enter text.	
3. Local Area WDB Transitional Jobs Policy	Click here to enter text.	Click here to enter text.	
4. Local Area WDB Youth Incentive Policy	Yes	Revised 3/11/26	

3. Individual Training Accounts (ITAs) are required [Regulations Section 680.300] to pay the cost of training provided with Adult and Dislocated Worker funds and limitations on duration and amount may be included [Regulations Section 680.320]. Please provide the following ITA elements in summary:	
Individual Training Accounts (ITA) Summary	
Dollar Amounts	No set limit
Time Limits	No set limit
Degree or Certificates allowed (Associate, Bachelor’s, other)	Certificate, Diploma, Associate or Bachelor Degree
Procedures for determining case-by-case exceptions for training that may be allowed	Request for exceptions are submitted in writing to the LA for consideration. Information reviewed includes cost of training, past performance (outcomes) of training provided, and local labor market information.

Individual Training Accounts (ITA) Summary	
Period for which ITAs are issued (semester, school year, short-term, etc.)	Semester
Supportive Services covered by ITA (provide examples such as uniforms, tools, physical exams, etc.)	Books & fees
Other	Click here to enter text.

4. Please specify the supportive services provided by the Local Area WDB Supportive Services Policy. List specific items under Supplies, Emergency, and Other, as identified in the Local Area WDB policy. (Expand form as needed.)

Transportation	Childcare	Supplies (include examples)	Emergency (include examples)	Other (include examples)
Travel reimbursement @ \$ 0.56/mile up to \$168 max per week	Up to \$140/wk for the first child and \$85/wk for the second child	Includes pens, pencils, notebooks, calculators, etc	As needed on a case by case basis	Licensing/exam fees, Required uniforms, Required tools, CRC test fees
Click here to enter text.	Click here to enter text.	Click here to enter text.	Click here to enter text.	Click here to enter text.
Click here to enter text.	Click here to enter text.	Click here to enter text.	Click here to enter text.	Click here to enter text.

Note: The Local Area WDB must adequately safeguard all forms of supportive services payments (i.e., gas cards, cash, gift cards, etc.) and assure that they are used solely for authorized purposes. **The Supportive Services Policy must include the Local Area WDB’s internal controls to safeguard supportive services. The internal controls must address the issuance, storage, and reconciliation of supportive services throughout the area and be clearly stated within the policy.**

Attachment Checklist for Local Area Plan Instructions

- Local Area WDB Signed copy of Updated Consortium Agreement (submit only if have been updated - (if applicable))
- Local Area WDB Administrative Entity Organizational Chart
- Local Area WDB Board Members (form provided)
- Local Area WDB By-Laws (submit only if have been updated)

- Local Area WDB By-Laws Required Elements Crosswalk (submit only if By-Laws have been updated - *form provided*)
- Local Area WDB Organizational Chart
- Local Area WDB Administrative Entity Certification Regarding Debarment* (*form provided*)
- Local Area WDB Workforce Development Area Signatory Form* (*form provided*)
- Local Area WDB NCWorks Career Centers (*form provided*)
- Local Area WDB Adult and Dislocated Worker Service Provider (*form provided*)
- Local Area WDB 14 Youth Program Elements Chart (*form provided*)
- Local Area WDB Youth Committee Meeting Schedule (*if applicable*)
- Local Area WDB Youth Committee Members (*if applicable*)
- Local Area WDB Youth Service Provider (*form provided*)
- Local Area Memorandum of Understanding
- Local Area Board Minutes Approving Plan Draft
- Local Area WDB Youth Service Provider (*form provided*)

****Only Policies that are new or have been revised for the PY 2026 Plan and have not been previously submitted to the DWS Planner should be submitted****

- Local Area WDB Youth Incentive Policy
- Local Area WDB Eligible Training Provider Policy
- Local Area WDB WIOA and TAA Co-enrollment Policy
- Local Area Adult/Dislocated Worker Work Experience Policy
- Competitive Procurement Policy
- Conflict of Interest Policy
- Nondiscrimination/Equal Opportunity Standards and Complaint Procedures
- Financial Management Policy for Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Title I
- Local Area WDB Individual Training Account Policy
- On-the-Job Training Policy
- Local Area WDB Oversight Monitoring Policy, Tool, and Schedule
- Priority of Service Policy
- Youth Work Experience Policy
- Local Area WDB Supportive Services Policy
- Local Area WDB Incumbent Worker Training Policy
- Local Area WDB Needs-Related Policy
- Non-Criminal Complaint Procedures
- Local Area WDB Transitional Jobs Policy
- Apprenticeship/Pre-Apprenticeship Policy

*Mail signed and unfolded originals to assigned DWS Planner at:

N.C. Division of Workforce Solutions
313 Chapanoke Road, Suite 120
4316 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-4316

DocuSign® (or similar) signature pages may be uploaded in WISE.

Appendices

NC Local Area WDB By-Laws Required Elements

[Appendix A](#)

By-Laws Guidance

[Appendix B](#)

Guidance Regarding Meetings and Conferencing via Electronic Means

[Appendix C](#)

Local Area WDB Membership Requirements

[Appendix D](#)

NC Local Area WDB By-Laws Required Elements

At a minimum, the Local Area WDB by-laws must include the following items for DWS approval. When submitting the Local Area WDB by-laws, please specify the section (provide a clear crosswalk) where the following required elements are located within the submitted by-laws.

Elements 1-7 are the *required* elements designated at WIOA Final Rule 679.310(g).

1. The nomination process used by the Chief Local Elected Officials (CLEOs) to elect the Local Area Board Chair and members.
2. The term limitations and how the term appointments will be staggered to ensure only a portion of memberships expire in a given year.
3. The process to notify the Chief Local Elected Officials (CLEOs) of a Board member vacancy to ensure a prompt nominee within ninety (90) days of the vacancy.
4. The proxy and alternative designee process that will be used when a Board member is unable to attend a meeting and assigns a designee as per the requirements of 20 CFR 679.110(d)(4).
5. The use of technology such as phone and web-based meetings, that will be used to promote Board member participation (20 CFR 679.110(d)(5)).
6. The process to ensure Board members actively participate in convening the workforce development system's stakeholders, brokering relationships with a diverse range of employers, and leveraging support for workforce development activities.
7. A description of any other conditions governing appointment or membership on the Board as deemed appropriate by the Chief Local Elected Officials (CLEOs); (20 CFR 679.310(g)(1-7)).

North Carolina specific requirements that must be specified within the by-laws:

1. The adopted generally accepted parliamentary procedure, such as Robert's Rules of Order, chosen by the Board.
2. Whether an appointee filling a vacancy will serve the remainder of the unexpired term or be appointed for a new full term.
3. The Board's policy assures the attendance and participation of its members.
4. Quorum requirements to be not less than 51% constituting 51% of the total filled Board positions.
5. Any standing committees the Board has established shall be included in the by-laws.
6. The Board's conflict of interest policy, which may not be any less stringent than the requirements of the DWS's Policy, shall be referenced in the by-laws.
7. The process the Board will take when expedient action is warranted between Board meetings, such as calling a special meeting or allowing the Executive Committee to act on behalf of the Board.
8. Board meetings will be held in accessible facilities with accessible materials available upon prior request.
9. The Board will meet no less than four times per program year.

By-Laws Guidance

This template is provided for guidance purposes only. It contains sample language that may be used in by-laws development. It is not required that Boards utilize this template or language within. This template reflects multiple counties within a Consortium. Single-county Boards and non-Consortia will need to adjust their by-laws accordingly.

Article 1

Name and Purpose

Section 1. Name

The name of this organization shall be the **Click Here to Enter WDB Name. Board** (hereinafter referred to as the “Board”).

Section 2. Purpose and Responsibilities

The purpose for which the Board is organized is to perform all functions of a WDB and Local Workforce Development Area as set forth in the Federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014 (“WIOA”), or the corresponding provision of any applicable federal or state laws of related purpose and the rules and regulations promulgated thereunder, and Section 143B-438.11 of the North Carolina General Statutes and to perform such functions with the **Click Here to Enter WDB Name. WDB.**

The Board services area shall encompass the counties of **Click Here to Enter WDB Name..**

The Board responsibilities shall include:

1. Develop and submit Local Area Plan annually to the Governor, a comprehensive 4-year Local Area Plan, in partnership with the Chief Local Elected Official.
2. Perform workforce research and regional market analysis.
3. Convene local workforce development system stakeholders to assist in the development of the Local Area Plan and identify non-federal expertise and resources to leverage support for workforce development activities.
4. Lead efforts to engage with a diverse range of employers and with entities in the region involved.
5. Lead efforts with representatives of secondary and postsecondary education programs in the Local Area to develop and implement career pathways within the Local Area by aligning the employment, training, education, and supportive services that are needed by adults and youth, particularly individuals with barriers.

By-Laws Guidance

6. Lead efforts in the Local Area to identify proven and promising strategies and initiatives for meeting the needs of employers, and workers and jobseekers in the local workforce system, and to identify and disseminate information on promising practices carried out in other local areas.
7. Develop strategies for using technology to maximize the accessibility and effectiveness of the local workforce development system for employers, workers, and jobseekers.
8. Conduct program oversight.
9. Negotiate and reach agreement on local performance accountability measures.
10. Designate or certify one-stop operators, contractors, and service providers and, in appropriate circumstances, terminate for cause the eligibility of such operators.
11. Coordinate activities with education and training providers in the local area.
12. Develop a budget for the activities of the Local Area WDB consistent with the Local Area Plan and the duties of the Local Area Board and subject to the approval of the Chief Local Elected Official.
13. Annually review the physical and programmatic accessibility provisions of all one-stop centers, as well as locations for contractors and service providers, in the local area, in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.

Article 2

Board Members

Section 1. Appointment

There shall be a Board of no more than **Click Here to Enter Number**. Board members. Members of this organization shall be appointed by the following procedure: The Chief Local Elected Official (of the **Click Here to Enter Name**. County Board of Commissioners, hereinafter referred to as the CLEO) shall appoint members based on nominations from the following: local business organizations; local education agencies; vocational education institutions, community-based organizations, and higher educational institutions; and private and proprietary schools; state or local labor organizations and other interested organizations.

The number of business sector nominees shall be at least 51% of the number of individuals to be appointed and are appointed from amongst individuals nominated by local business organizations and business trade associations. The nominated candidate or company must be a member of the nominating organization. A majority of the Members shall be representatives of businesses in the local area (including small businesses or organizations representing businesses that, at a minimum, include high-quality, work-relevant training and development in in-demand industry sectors or occupations in the local area) and are owners, chief executives or

By-Laws Guidance

operating officers, or other business executives or employers with optimum policy making or hiring authority. The members of the local Board shall represent diverse geographic areas within the local area.

Section 2. Composition

Organized Labor and Community Based Organizations: Not less than 20% of the Members shall be representatives of the workforce within the local area, who:

- i. shall include representatives of labor organizations, who have been nominated by local labor federations, or other representatives of employees;
- ii. shall include a representative, who shall be a member of a labor organization or a training director, from a joint labor-management apprenticeship program, or if no such program exists in the area, such a representative of an apprenticeship program in the area, if such a program exists.
- iii. may include representatives of community-based organizations that have demonstrated experience and expertise in addressing the employment needs of individuals with barriers to employment, including organizations that serve veterans or that provide or support competitive integrated employment for individuals with disabilities; and
- iv. may include representatives of organizations that have demonstrated experience and expertise in addressing the employment, training, or education needs of eligible youth, including representatives of organizations that serve out-of-school youth;

Education and training activities: The Board shall include representatives of entities administering education and training activities in the local area, who:

- i. shall include a representative of eligible providers administering adult education and literacy activities under Title II of the WIOA;
- ii. shall include a representative of institutions of higher education providing workforce investment activities (including community colleges);
- iii. may include representatives of local educational agencies, and of community-based organizations with demonstrated experience and expertise in addressing the education or training needs of individuals with barriers to training;

The Board shall include representatives of governmental and economic and community development entities serving the local area, who:

- i. shall include a representative of economic and community development entities;
- ii. shall include an appropriate representative from the State Employment Service Office under the Wagner-Peyser Act serving the local area;
- iii. shall include an appropriate representative of the programs carried out under Title I of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, serving the local area;

By-Laws Guidance

- iv. may include representatives of agencies or entities administering programs serving the local area relating to transportation, housing, and public assistance, and
- v. may include representatives of philanthropic organizations serving the local area; and

This Board may include such other individuals or representatives of entities as the Chief Local Elected Official determines appropriate.

Section 3. Tenure

All appointments will be for a two-year term to expire on June 30 of each respective term. No member shall serve more than three consecutive terms (6 years) or a total of five terms (10 years) in any one appointed position. An individual whose initial appointment is to fill an unexpired term or an initial staggered term of less than two years, shall be eligible to serve the number of full-length terms other members are eligible to serve, unless, prior to the time for reappointment that individual has already served six consecutive years. Members may be re-appointed at the discretion of the Chief Local Elected Official subject to the term limitations outlined in this section.

Terms shall be staggered to ensure that at any given time a percentage of the members are experienced in WDB functions.

The Board shall advise the Consortium Counties of potential Board member vacancies prior to the end of the term. In the case of a midterm vacancy, an immediate replacement shall be requested of the Consortium County represented by the departing Board member. The appointed Board member shall fill the remaining term of office.

The Board shall not compensate Board Members for their services, but by resolution of the Board, a fixed sum and expenses, if any, may be allowed for attendance at each regular or special meeting of the Board.

Section 4. Termination for Cause

By two-thirds majority vote of the membership or by action of the Chief Local Elected Official, a member may be removed for cause from the Board. Cause would be for such actions as malfeasance, misconduct, or any action which would be deemed not in the best interest of the Board; or three unexcused absences from regular scheduled meetings within the preceding twelve calendar months. Notice that a removal vote that may be taken for cause must be included on the agenda of said meeting. The Chair shall send a precautionary letter to the said Board member upon two unexcused absences within the preceding twelve calendar months prior to the next meeting.

Section 5. Resignation

Letters of resignation must be submitted to the [Click Here to Enter WDB Name](#). Chair. Three consecutive absences without justification and no response to the above referenced letter from the chair will be considered acceptable terms for resignation. Justification must be submitted in writing. The Board Chair has the authority to accept or deny justification.

By-Laws Guidance

Section 6. Vacancies

Upon vacancy of any position on this Board, the procedure in Article II, Section 1, will be followed to provide replacement representation to complete the remainder of that term of appointment.

Article 3 Meetings

Section 1. Regular Meetings

The Board shall meet at a public location at such time and place as determined by the Chairperson. All meetings must be held in an accessible facility, in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements. All materials must be in an accessible format (i.e., large print, Braille, interpreter, etc.), as needed or indicated.

The Board will meet no less than four times per program year. Regular Board meetings are face to face; however, Board members may attend meetings via conference call, video communications and other alternative methods.

Five working days' notice shall be delivered to each member stating a reasonable time, date and place of the meeting and the meeting's purpose unless deemed an emergency by the Chair or Executive Committee calling for said special meeting.

Section 2. Special Meetings

The Chair of the Board and Committee Chair may, when deemed necessary, call a special meeting of the Board via conference call, video communications, or alternative media sources for transacting any business designated in the call.

Section 3. Quorum

At all meetings (regular or special) of the Board, a majority of the Board members present constitutes a quorum for transacting business. A quorum shall require the participation of Board members constituting 51% of the total filled Board positions. Proxy representatives who are unable to cast votes shall not count toward meeting the quorum requirement. Votes may be cast via electronic medium for remote attendees. The act of the majority of the Board members present at a meeting at which a quorum is present shall be the act of the Board. However, a two-thirds vote of those present shall be required to amend any provision of these by-laws.

Section 4. Conduct of Meetings

All meetings of this Board shall be conducted in accordance with the latest edition of Robert's Rules of Order.

By-Laws Guidance

Section 5. Open Meetings

Local Area Board Conducts Business Openly: The Local Area Board must conduct its business in an open manner as required by WIOA sec. 107(e), by making available to the public, on a regular basis through electronic means and open meetings, information about the activities of the local Board. (20 CFR 679.390) This includes:

- a. Information about the Local Area Plan, or modification to the Local Area Plan, before submission of the Local Area Plan;
- b. List and affiliation of Local Area WDB members;
- c. Selection of one-stop operators;
- d. Award of grants or contracts to eligible training providers of workforce investment activities including providers of youth workforce investment activities;
- e. Minutes of formal meetings of the Local Area Board; and
- f. Local Area Board by-laws, consistent with § 679.310(g).

Section 6. Proxy Representation and Voting

A member may designate a representative to attend a meeting of the Board in his/her absence. The proxy must meet the membership criteria for the member's affiliation type. The proxy will count toward the appointed member's attendance. The representative may participate in discussions and may vote so long as the member provides written voting instructions to the Chair allowing his/her proxy representative to cast votes in accordance with the written voting instructions.

Each Board member present shall be entitled to one vote on each matter for which a vote is taken. Votes may be cast telephonically or via electronic medium.

Section 7. Conflict of Interest and Voting

No WDB member (whether compensated or not) shall engage in any activity, including participation in the selection, award or administration of a sub-grant or contract supported by WIOA funds if a conflict of interest, real or apparent would be involved. Such a conflict would arise when:

- i. The individual,
- ii. any member of the individual 's immediate family,
- iii. the individual's partner, or
- iv. an organization which employs, or is about to employ any of the above, has a financial interest in the firm or organization selected for the award.

No WDB member, member of his/her immediate family, officers, employees, or agents of the WDB member's agency or business, shall neither solicit nor accept gratuities, favors, or anything of value from contractors, potential contractors, or parties to sub agreements.

By-Laws Guidance

A WDB member shall not cast a vote on, or participate in, any decision-making capacity on the provision of services by such member (or any organization which that member directly represents), nor on any matter which would provide any direct financial benefit to that member.

No WDB members shall participate in a governmental decision including voting on a matter (including recommendations, appointments, obligating or committing the WDB to a course of action) when such action influences a decision or exercises judgement in making a decision. Any member with a potential or actual conflict of interest shall comply with requirements for public disclosure and recusal.

Article 4 Organization

Section 1. Officers

The officers of this Board shall be a Chair, a Vice-Chair, and a Secretary.

Section 2. Election of Officers

Officers of this Board shall be elected in June for two-year terms. The Chair and Vice-Chair will be elected from among the members who are representatives of the business sector. The secretary will be elected from among all members.

The Chair shall appoint a nominating committee to recommend officers who shall be elected from the Board's business sector membership and shall begin their term at the beginning of the new program year effective July 1. These officers shall serve until their successors are elected and qualified or until they are no longer Board members. If an officer is unable to complete his/her term the Board shall elect a successor to complete the remaining portion of the original term. The Vice-Chair shall not be required to succeed the Chair at the end of the Chair's term of office.

Section 3. Chair

The Chair shall preside at Board meetings, designate standing and ad hoc committees deemed appropriate and appoint their Chair and members. The Chair shall not vote except in the case of a tie, in which event he/she shall cast the deciding vote.

Section 4. Vice-Chair

The Vice-Chair shall assume all duties and responsibilities of the Chair in his/her absence from meetings. In the event that the office of Chair is vacated before the end of the term, the Vice-Chair shall assume the office in an acting capacity until such time as the Board elects a new Chair.

By-Laws Guidance

Section 5. Secretary

The Secretary shall be responsible for proper notification of meetings, review, and submission of the minutes to the Board, and shall carry out any other duties deemed appropriate by the Chair. Local Area staff will serve as support personnel in performing these duties.

Section 6. Executive Committee

The Executive Committee shall consist of the Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary (from a sector other than business), and the previous Chair or Vice-Chair. As determined by the Chair of the Board, chairs of Board committees will attend Executive Committee meetings. Responsibilities of the Executive Committee are as follows: make standing committee assignments and coordination among committees, prepare recommendations to Board on state and national issues, act as needed between regularly scheduled Board meetings, and develop immediate and long-range goals for Board concurrence.

Section 7. Vacancy

If an office becomes vacant, the Board shall elect a successor at its next meeting.

Article 5 Committees

Section 1.

The Chair of the Board shall have the power, except as otherwise provided in this Article, to appoint the members of any Committee for a term of two (2) years. No Committee, except as elsewhere provided in this Article, shall take any action or position on behalf of the Board, bind the Board, or exercise the authority of the Board in the management of the Corporation. The Chair of all the Committees shall be members of the Board. The Executive Committee of the Board shall meet at the call of the Chair of the Board or the written request of any two (2) members of the committee. The Board's other Committees shall meet at the call of their respective Chair or the Chair of the Board.

Section 2.

Electronic meetings shall be permissible in lieu of face-to-face committee meetings at the discretion of the Committee Chair. An electronic meeting of the Committee occurs when Board members are in different locations, connected by electronic means, through audio, video, or both. All votes taken during an electronic meeting shall be by roll call. All scheduled electronic meetings shall be held in such a way that all members participating can hear each other at the same time. When speaking, each member will be asked to clearly identify himself, so that proper recognition is given and recorded. All Board policies, administrative practices, and by-laws shall apply equally to electronic meetings.

By-Laws Guidance

Section 3.

The Local Area WDB may establish standing committees to provide information and assist the Board in carrying out its responsibilities (20 CFR 679.360).

Article 6 Amendments

Section 1. Amendment Procedure

Board by-laws can be amended at any regular Board meeting provided the proposed amendment(s) has been submitted in writing to the Board members at least two weeks prior to the meeting.

Section 2. Vote Needed

The by-laws shall be amended upon affirmative vote by a two-thirds majority of the Board.

Article 7 Severability

In the event that any of the rules, regulations, restrictions, covenants, or conditions of these by-laws are held to be partially or wholly invalid or unenforceable for any reason, such holding shall not affect, alter, modify, or impair in any manner any of the other terms, provisions, rules, regulations, restrictions, covenants, or conditions contained herein.

Adopted This NUMBER DATE Day of MONTH, YEAR.

Board Director, Printed Name and Signature

Date

Chief Local Elected Official Printed Name and Signature

Date

Board Chair, Printed Name and Signature

Date

Guidance Regarding Meetings and Conferencing via Electronic Means

All public WDB meetings and Committee meetings will be held at specified times and places which are convenient and open to the public.

The Board believes it is in the best interest of its members, systems, and customers that the fullest participation and attendance in all meetings be achieved whenever possible. Furthermore, it recognizes that the use of electronic, audio or video conferencing for meeting attendance and voting requirements is permissible so long as the meeting is conducted in accordance with the Sunshine Provision.

The Board in all of its regular and special, standing committee, and ad hoc committee meetings complies with and intends to comply with the provisions of the Sunshine Provision. Therefore, the Board hereby adopts this policy, to be used when needed, to make use of the capabilities for conferencing by electronic means or any other type of audio or video conferencing for its meetings *or* any of the standing committee and ad hoc committee meetings as set forth and adopted according to the following rules as applicable:

- A. All pertinent provisions of the Sunshine Provision must be complied with, including specifically the proper notice of any regular or special meeting, the proper record keeping or minutes of each meeting, the appropriate agenda preparation for each meeting, which in addition shall be posted along with the notice of the meeting; and, in particular, any use of closed sessions shall be in compliance with the provisions of WIOA.
- B. All Board and Committee members attending meetings by electronic conferencing shall be entitled to vote as if they were personally and physically present at the meeting site so long as a quorum is, in total, present and accounted for, and their votes shall be recorded by the Board Director.
- C. A Board or Committee member who attends a meeting by electronic, video, or audio conference must provide notice to the Board Director at least 24 hours prior to the meeting unless such advance notice is impracticable.
- D. The location of the meeting included on the notice shall be equipped with a suitable transmission system (e.g., a speakerphone) in order that the public audience, the members in attendance and any staff in attendance will be able to hear any input, vote, or discussion of the conference and that the member attending by electronic means shall have a similar capability of hearing and participating in such input, vote, or discussion.
- E. As the Board or its committees begin each new matter of business, the Chair will check with all remote locations(s) where members are to ensure that each such connection is active.

Guidance Regarding Meetings and Conferencing via Electronic Means

- F. When a motion is made, and seconded, and discussion regarding the motion begins, the Chair will check that the connection with remote location(s) where members are present is active. Prior to closing discussion and taking any vote, the Chair will ask all remote location(s) where member(s) is(are) present whether there are any additional comments, questions, or information to be added to the discussion.

- G. All decisions will be made using majority rule except when a higher vote is required. There will be no muting of any connections with remote location(s) where members are present at any time. There will be no sidebar discussions.

- H. The procedures outlined above shall also apply to each Board and its Committee members.

Local Area WDB Membership Requirements

Representative of Business (WIOA Section 107(b) (2)(A))

Who May Satisfy the Requirements:

The majority of the members of the Local Area WDB must be representatives of private sector business in the local area. At a minimum, two members must represent small business as defined by the U.S. Small Business Administration. Business representatives serving on Local Area WDBs may also serve on the State Board. Each business representative must meet the following criteria:

- be an owner, chief executive officer, chief operating officer, or other individual with optimum policy making and hiring authority;
- provide employment opportunities in **in-demand** industry sectors or occupations, as those terms are defined in WIOA section 3(23); and provide high-quality, work-relevant training and development opportunities to its workforce or the workforce of others (in the case of organizations representing business as per WIOA Sec. 107(b)(2)(A)(ii); and
- are appointed from among individuals nominated by local business organizations and business trade associations.

In North Carolina, examples of allowable business organizations may include chambers of commerce, trade organizations, large non-profit organizations, such as Rex Hospital, and for-profit organizations, such as Duke Hospital, depending on the specific circumstances. Examples of unallowable business organizations include the N.C. Department of Public Safety or other state or municipal agencies.

Representative of Workforce (WIOA Section 107(b)(2)(B))

Who May Satisfy the Requirements:

Not less than 20% of the members of the Local Area WDB **must** be workforce representatives. These representatives:

- **must include two or more representatives of labor organizations**, where such organizations exist in the local area. Where labor organizations do not exist, representatives must be selected from other employee representatives;

Employee representatives must come from organizations that advocate, enhance, or protect the rights of a group of employees. In North Carolina, such examples include the North Carolina Association of Educators (NCAE), the State Employees Association of North Carolina (SEANC), and the National Guard Association). The National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) is an example of an organization that is not allowable as a labor organization.

Local Area WDB Membership Requirements

- **must include one or more representatives of a joint labor management, or union affiliated, registered apprenticeship program** within the area who must be a training director or a member of a labor organization. If no union affiliated registered apprenticeship programs exist in the area, a representative of a registered apprenticeship program with no union affiliation must be appointed, if one exists.

In addition to the representatives enumerated above, the Local Area WDB **may** include the following to contribute to the 20% requirement:

- one or more representatives of community-based organizations that have demonstrated experience and expertise in addressing the employment, training, or education needs of individuals with barriers to employment, including organizations that serve veterans or provide or support competitive integrated employment for individuals with disabilities; and

In North Carolina, examples of allowable community-based organizations include organizations such as Goodwill and community action agencies.

- one or more representatives of organizations that demonstrated experience or expertise in addressing the employment, training, or education needs of eligible youth, including representatives of organizations that serve out-of-school youth.

Community College representatives would not be appropriate for this category.

Representatives of Education and Training (WIOA Section 107(b) (2)(C))

Who May Satisfy the Requirements:

The balance of Local Area WDB membership **must include:**

- **At least one** eligible provider administering **adult education and literacy** activities under WIOA Title II;
- **At least one** representative from an **institution of higher education** providing workforce investments activities, including community colleges; and
- **At least one representative** from each of the following governmental and economic and community development entities:
 - **Economic and community development** entities;
 - The **State Employment Service Office** under the Wagner-Peyser Act (29 U.S. C. 49 et seq.) serving the local area; and
 - The programs carried out under Title I of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, other than Sec. 112 or part C of that title.

Local Area WDB Membership Requirements

In addition to the representatives enumerated above, the Chief Local Elected Official (CLEO) **may** appoint other appropriate entities in the local area, including:

- Entities administering education and training activities who represent local educational agencies or community-based organizations with demonstrated expertise in addressing the education and training needs for individuals with barriers to employment;
- Governmental and economic and community development entities who represent transportation, housing, and public assistance programs;
- Philanthropic organizations serving the local area;
- and Other appropriate individuals as determined by the Chief Local Elected Official (CLEO).
- The board chair shall be elected among the business representatives.

The Division of Workforce Solutions may request additional information from Local Area WDBs on representatives and the organizations they represent at any time in order to determine compliance with these requirements. The final determination on whether requirements are met is made by the Division of Workforce Solutions.
