

Governor Gina M. Raimondo
Mike Grey, Chair
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Governor's Workforce Board
Rhode Island
Today's Vision...Tomorrow's Opportunity



Regional Planning Policy

What is “Regional Planning”?

WIOA Section 106(a) and U.S. Department of Labor Training and Employment Guidance Letter 27-14, require the Governor, in consultation with the State Board, to identify *regions* in the submission of the WIOA Combined State Plan. Regions comprised of two or more local areas or that are interstate in nature must conduct regional planning as defined in the WIOA. Regional planning allows two or more areas to collaboratively plan to serve the specific needs of their regional labor market or economy.

Purpose:

- To designate the state of Rhode Island as a ‘region’ for the purposes of WIOA Section 106(a).

Summary:

Regional workforce planning seems appropriate for medium to large states with multiple labor market areas, sub economies, and regions. While the labor market differences between the urban core of Rhode Island and the balance of state are sufficient to justify two workforce development areas; the collaboration between and among these local boards and the state board is already of such a nature that it meets the spirit and intent of “regional planning” as required under WIOA Section 106(a).

The State Workforce Board has further determined based on geographic boundaries (Rhode Island is geographically the smallest state in the United States), Labor Market Area analysis, and funding and resource realities, that the state itself is a “region” for the purposes of this policy. The State Plan shall therefore also serve as a regional plan.

Nevertheless, the Board will continue to consider the opportunity of regional intrastate planning in the future and may approach bordering states and local areas about the possibility of interstate regional planning as well.

WORKFORCE INVESTMENT NOTICE: 17-01

TO: WORKFORCE INVESTMENT AREAS

FROM: Governor's Workforce Board

SUBJECT: Regional Identification

DATE: Effective: March 16, 2017

1. PURPOSE: As directed by U.S. Department of Labor Training and Employment Guidance Letter 27-14, the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014 requires the Governor, in consultation with the State Board, to identify regions as required by WIOA Section 106.

2. REFERENCES: WIOA Section 106(a); TEGL 27-14; WIOA NPRM §679.210

3. BACKGROUND: The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (Pub. L. 113-128), contains a provision in Section 106(a) requiring a state to identify regions prior to the second full program year after the date of enactment in order to receive allotments under the WIOA Adult, Dislocated Worker and Youth programs. States shall identify regions after consultation with Chief Elected Officials and Local Workforce Development Boards and take into account the following factors:

1. The extent to which regions are consistent with labor market areas in the state;
2. The extent to which regions are consistent with regional economic development areas in the state; and
3. An assurance that regions have available the federal and non-federal resources necessary to effectively administer activities under subtitle B and other applicable provisions of the WIOA, including whether the areas have the appropriate education and training providers, such as institutions of higher education and area career and technical education schools.

The WIOA defines three types of regions:

1. Regions that are comprised of one local area.
2. Regions are comprised of two or more local areas.
3. Regions that are interstate areas contained within two or more States.

Regions comprised of two or more local areas or are interstate in nature must conduct regional planning as defined in the WIOA.

4. Inquiries: Questions concerning this issuance may be directed by phone or by email at:

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Department of Labor and Training
1511 Pontiac Avenue, Building 72-3
Cranston, Rhode Island 02920
(401) 462-8860 Phone (401) 462-8865 Fax
www.dlt.ri.gov | www.gwb.ri.gov

5. Policy:

The Governor must develop a policy and process for identifying regions in consultation with the State Workforce Board and chief local elected officials. The policy must be evaluate the local areas in the proposed region considering the following criteria:

- Share a single labor market
- Share a common economic development area
- Possess federal and nonfederal resources, including appropriate education and training institutions to administer activities under WIOA subtitle B.

The Governor may also consider the following factors.

- Population centers
- Commuting patterns
- Land ownership
- Industrial composition
- Location quotients
- Labor force conditions
- Geographic boundaries
- Additional factors as determined by the Secretary of Labor

The State Workforce Board has determined that the state itself is a 'region' comprised of two local areas. This determination was based on the following factors:

- *Geographic boundaries:* Rhode Island is geographically the smallest state in the nation. Land use and economic planning, public administration and services, and commuting patterns reflect this reality.
- *Labor Market Area analysis:* Of the 39 cities and towns in Rhode Island; 36 fall within the "Providence-Warwick, RI-MA Metropolitan NECTA" Labor Market Area (LMA) as determined by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. One additional community is within its own LMA due to the fact it is an island; and two additional communities fall outside of the Providence-Warwick, RI-MA Metropolitan NECTA. (*Appendix A*)
- *Federal and nonfederal resources:* The State Workforce Board determines that WIOA title I-B resources below \$20,000,000 are insufficient to administer activities on a regional level.

Therefore, the state of Rhode Island shall be a single planning region.

Accordingly, the State Plan shall also serve as the Regional Plan.

If at such time state and federal allocations to Rhode Island were to increase to such a level that regional planning becomes practical, the Board may convene a committee of representatives around the state, including chief local elected officials to make recommendations on the identification of regions.

Furthermore, the state may approach bordering states and local areas about the possibilities of regional planning in the future. The Governor shall have final authority over the identification of regions.

Appendix A

BLS Labor Market Area List <https://www.bls.gov/lau/laufaq.htm#Q06>

New Shoreham town, RI	New Shoreham town, RI
Norwich-New London-Westerly, CT-RI Metropolitan NECTA	Hopkinton town, RI
Norwich-New London-Westerly, CT-RI Metropolitan NECTA	Westerly town, RI
Providence-Warwick, RI-MA Metropolitan NECTA	Barrington town, RI
Providence-Warwick, RI-MA Metropolitan NECTA	Bristol town, RI
Providence-Warwick, RI-MA Metropolitan NECTA	Burrillville town, RI
Providence-Warwick, RI-MA Metropolitan NECTA	Charlestown town, RI
Providence-Warwick, RI-MA Metropolitan NECTA	Coventry town, RI
Providence-Warwick, RI-MA Metropolitan NECTA	Cumberland town, RI
Providence-Warwick, RI-MA Metropolitan NECTA	East Greenwich town, RI
Providence-Warwick, RI-MA Metropolitan NECTA	Exeter town, RI
Providence-Warwick, RI-MA Metropolitan NECTA	Foster town, RI
Providence-Warwick, RI-MA Metropolitan NECTA	Glocester town, RI
Providence-Warwick, RI-MA Metropolitan NECTA	Jamestown town, RI
Providence-Warwick, RI-MA Metropolitan NECTA	Johnston town, RI
Providence-Warwick, RI-MA Metropolitan NECTA	Lincoln town, RI
Providence-Warwick, RI-MA Metropolitan NECTA	Little Compton town, RI
Providence-Warwick, RI-MA Metropolitan NECTA	Middletown town, RI
Providence-Warwick, RI-MA Metropolitan NECTA	Narragansett town, RI
Providence-Warwick, RI-MA Metropolitan NECTA	North Kingstown town, RI
Providence-Warwick, RI-MA Metropolitan NECTA	North Providence town, RI
Providence-Warwick, RI-MA Metropolitan NECTA	North Smithfield town, RI
Providence-Warwick, RI-MA Metropolitan NECTA	Portsmouth town, RI
Providence-Warwick, RI-MA Metropolitan NECTA	Richmond town, RI
Providence-Warwick, RI-MA Metropolitan NECTA	Scituate town, RI
Providence-Warwick, RI-MA Metropolitan NECTA	Smithfield town, RI
Providence-Warwick, RI-MA Metropolitan NECTA	South Kingstown town, RI
Providence-Warwick, RI-MA Metropolitan NECTA	Tiverton town, RI
Providence-Warwick, RI-MA Metropolitan NECTA	Warren town, RI
Providence-Warwick, RI-MA Metropolitan NECTA	West Greenwich town, RI
Providence-Warwick, RI-MA Metropolitan NECTA	West Warwick town, RI
Providence-Warwick, RI-MA Metropolitan NECTA	Central Falls city, RI
Providence-Warwick, RI-MA Metropolitan NECTA	Cranston city, RI
Providence-Warwick, RI-MA Metropolitan NECTA	East Providence city, RI
Providence-Warwick, RI-MA Metropolitan NECTA	Newport city, RI
Providence-Warwick, RI-MA Metropolitan NECTA	Pawtucket city, RI
Providence-Warwick, RI-MA Metropolitan NECTA	Providence city, RI
Providence-Warwick, RI-MA Metropolitan NECTA	Warwick city, RI
Providence-Warwick, RI-MA Metropolitan NECTA	Woonsocket city, RI