

Local and Regional Designation Steering Committee Process Overview and Recommendation Summary

Background - The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) charges the Governor with the establishment of regions as well as the designation/redesignation of local areas. The process has been highly consultative in nature including input from critical system partners at the state and local levels. Title 1, Chapter 2, Section 106 of WIOA outlines the requirements and process for the determination of regions and local areas including identification, types, initial designation, subsequent designation, process, considerations, designation of recommendation by the State Board, and appeals.

Status - A 16 member Steering Committee was formed including KWIB members, business, state partners, local partners, core programs and stakeholders. The Steering Committee utilized the criteria outlined in Section 106 and other relevant factors to make an initial recommendation on regions and local areas for designation and redesignation.

It was determined based on initial designation requests received by the Governor that six local areas met the initial designation criteria and there was agreement by the Local Elected Officials to maintain their existing local area. Those areas are: Cumberlands, Green River, Lincoln Trail, Northern Kentucky, TENCO and Western Kentucky.

The Steering Committee then asked the staff to prepare local options for the remaining areas and regional options for their consideration based on their guidance regarding data analysis. They discussed three local area options and three regional options as well as had the opportunity to offer any modifications or alternate options. The Steering Committee agreed to put forward two local options and one regional recommendation for initial feedback via Stakeholder Listening Sessions. A written public comment process was also offered and communicated to ensure maximum participation.

The following Stakeholder Listening Sessions were held between January 30 and February 6, 2015 across the Commonwealth:

- one Chief Local Elected Officials (CLEOs) session;
- three Local Elected Official sessions;
- three Local Workforce Investment Board member sessions; and
- three Community Stakeholders sessions open to system customers, staff, partners and stakeholders.

There were 7 CLEOs, 164 attendees at the sessions, with 40 people commenting. In addition, 39 written comments were received through the formal process.

Summary documents were prepared and additional local and regional options were presented to the Steering Committee for their consideration. The Committee reviewed the feedback from the Stakeholder Listening Sessions and public comment and began discussions on a local and regional recommendation at its February 11th meeting. The Steering Committee then met on February 24th to complete its work. A decision tree was developed to craft the local area recommendation. Then the Steering Committee discussed the two regional options still on the table.

The Steering Committee reviewed the following options for local and regional area designations:

Local Area Designation Options

- No Change
- LEO Requests
- Commuter Pattern Change
- Employer Stakeholder Request

Regional Options

- Four Interstate Regions
- Four Intrastate Regions
- Three Intrastate Regions
- Ten Intrastate Regions

Strategy to Achieve Consensus - The approach used by the Steering Committee to reach consensus on a local area recommendation was as follows:

- Remind the committee of the requirements outlined in Section 106 of WIOA;
- Review the Local Areas that meet the requirements for initial designation and those that do not;
- Reach consensus on the 2 local areas not under debate (KentuckianaWorks and EKCEP);
- Discuss Barren River/South Central Kentucky Local Area proposals and reach consensus;
- Discuss Bluegrass/Fayette/Employer Stakeholder proposals and reach consensus; and
- Outline recommendations and approved policy to ensure system innovation and transformation outside designation, for example, governance, quality service delivery, and accountability and results.

As for the approach toward a decision on a regional recommendation, the following process was used:

- Remind the committee of the requirements outlined in Section 106 of WIOA;
- Review the Regional Coordination expectations; and
- Discuss the 3 region and 4 region options and reach consensus.

System Transformation Summary - The Steering Committee wanted to share the following statements with the KWIB:

- Maintaining geographic boundaries is not an endorsement of the status quo in service delivery;
- Fiscal agent being competitively procured; and
- Communication plan and technical assistance around the distinction between a local area and a region.

Local Area Summary and Recommendations - Below captures the Steering Committee discussion and recommendations regarding those areas that did not meet the initial designation criteria and/or where their Local Elected Officials were not in agreement in maintaining the existing local area:

- KentuckianaWorks maintains current configuration
- EKCEP maintains current configuration
- Barren River/South Central Kentucky – vote 9 to 5
 - Pro SCK – broken beyond repair, employer input
 - No SCK – available federal funds, new governance opportunity to work, if eager to make change (LEOs, employers) why not in existing structure, decision not on factors
- Bluegrass/Lexington-Fayette/8 county – 9-5 vote to maintain current configuration
 - Pro existing structure – geography of other options do not work, governance issues can be worked out, economic data and structure supports, LEO consensus
 - No to existing structure – same old structure, auditor’s report, employer sentiment not addressed

Therefore, the Steering Committee recommendation was that all four of the above local areas maintain their current configuration within the context of the system transformation statements above.

Regional Area Recommendation - The regional area recommendation was as follows:

- Four Intrastate Regions – vote 13 to 1 configuration (only no vote was a proxy)