

# WORKFORCE SERVICES DIRECTIVE

Number: WSD15-17

Date: February 24, 2016  
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TO: WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY

SUBJECT: CALIFORNIA WIOA REGIONAL PLANNING UNITS

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### Purpose

This policy officially identifies California's regional planning units.

### Scope

This directive applies to all Local Workforce Development Boards (Local Boards) and their chief elected officials (CEOs).

### Effective Date

This directive is effective on the date of issuance.

## REFERENCES

- *Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)* (Public Law 113-128) Sections 106(a) and (c)

## STATE-IMPOSED REQUIREMENTS

This directive contains only state-imposed requirements.

## FILING INSTRUCTIONS

This directive finalizes Workforce Services Draft Directive WSDD-116, issued for comment on April 30, 2015. The California Workforce Development Board received 28 comments during the draft comment period. These comments resulted in changes to the directive. A summary of comments is provided as Attachment 5. Retain this directive until further notice.

*The EDD is an equal opportunity employer/program. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.*

## **BACKGROUND**

The WIOA Section 106 includes a requirement that the Governor identify planning regions in the state and enumerates specific elements that must be considered as part of this process. The purpose of identifying regions is to align workforce development activities and resources with larger regional economic development areas and available resources to provide coordinated and efficient services to job seekers and employers. The WIOA also requires the Governor to consult with the Local Boards and CEOs in the Local Workforce Development Areas (Local Areas).

## **POLICY AND PROCEDURES**

Local Board placement in regional planning units is based primarily on the location of WIOA client populations and the way these populations fit into regional economies as defined by economic data including commute patterns, industry composition, labor markets, geographic location, and transportation infrastructure.

Boundaries of the proposed regional planning units were largely set by giving weight to the foregoing economic data and by starting with regional economic market boundaries drawn by the Employment Development Department's Labor Market Information Division (LMID). These regional economic market boundaries were then modified to take into account the number of Local Areas in a region, the size of the area covered, and the boundaries and planning regions of existing regional workforce consortia.

In addition, the following principles and other considerations were also applied to initially develop the boundaries of regional planning units:

### Principles

- Local Boards will only be required to plan in one regional planning unit.
- Local Boards will always plan in the macro-regional economic markets where the majority of their populations are located.
- Regional planning units respect the existing administrative boundaries of counties and Local Boards.
- Regional planning boundaries provide some deference to existing planning relationships provided that Local Boards plan inside the macro-regional economic market where the majority of their populations reside.
- Regional planning units carved out of larger regional economic markets correspond, as much as possible, with the boundaries of sub-regional economic markets.

### Other Considerations

- Regional planning unit boundaries are typically consistent with or nested inside the historical economic development area boundaries determined by California's nonoperational Economic Strategy Panel.

- An examination of the location and number of Adult Education providers in the Adult Education consortia was undertaken to ensure that there were a sufficient number of providers in each regional planning unit.

## **ACTION**

Bring this guidance to the attention of all concerned parties.

## **INQUIRIES**

If you have any questions regarding this directive, contact Daniel X. Patterson at [Daniel.Patterson@cwdb.ca.gov](mailto:Daniel.Patterson@cwdb.ca.gov) or 916-657-1446.

/S/ JOSÉ LUIS MÁRQUEZ, Chief  
Central Office Workforce Services Division

Attachments are available on the internet:

1. [\*Regional Planning Units\*](#)
2. [Map of WIOA Regional Planning Units](#)
3. [Regional Planning Unit Methodology](#)
4. [Map of LMID Economic Regions and Subregions for Regional Economic Analysis Profiles](#)
5. [Summary of Comments](#)