

May 22, 2017

Dear DLR job service staff,

Welcome to the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) One-Stop System. This Act of 2014 reforms and strengthens the workforce innovation system of the nation to put Americans back to work and make the United States more competitive in the 21st century.

Beyond achieving the requirements of the new law, WIOA offers an opportunity to continue to modernize the public workforce system and achieve key hallmarks of a customer-centered public workforce system. The needs of business and workers drive workforce solutions. One-stop centers and partners provide excellent customer service to job seekers and businesses. The public workforce system pursues continuous improvement through evaluation and data-driven policy. And the public workforce system supports strong regional economies.

WIOA has six main purposes:

- Increasing access to and opportunities for the employment, education, training, and support services for individuals, particularly those with barriers to employment;
- Supporting the alignment of workforce investment, education, and economic development systems in support of a comprehensive, accessible, and high-quality workforce development system;
- Improving the quality and labor market relevance of workforce investment, education, and economic development efforts;
- Promoting improvement in the structure and delivery of services;
- Increasing the prosperity of workers and employers; and
- Providing workforce development activities that increase employment, retention, and earnings of participants and that increase post-secondary credential attainment. As a result, these activities improve the quality of the workforce, reduce welfare dependency, increase economic self-sufficiency, meet skill requirements of employers, and enhance productivity and competitiveness of the nation.

You can view the proposed Unified State Plan for South Dakota at http://www.sdjobs.org/workforce_training/wioa.aspx. This plan incorporates the WIOA core programs into a unified workforce vision including, Title I Adult, Dislocated Worker, and Youth; Title II Adult Education and Literacy; Title III Wagner-Peyser Act; and Title IV Rehabilitation Act.

The policies outlined in this WIOA Policy Manual are effective April 1, 2017. They are based on statutory and regulatory framework. They were compiled by a team of directors, program specialists, fiscal staff, and legal staff with guidance from the South Dakota Workforce Development Council.

Thank you for being a part of the workforce system in South Dakota. The Department of Labor and Regulation continues to promote economic opportunity and financial security for individuals and businesses.

Sincerely,



Marcia Hultman
Cabinet Secretary