



OHIO'S UNIFIED WORKFORCE PLAN

Better coordinating WIA, ABLE and Perkins-funded programs

Ohio's unified workforce plan will improve outcomes for students, adults and employers by better coordinating local workforce administrators, caseworkers and K-12 educators.

Currently, Ohio submits three state plans to the federal government, one for each of the following programs:

- Workforce Investment Act (WIA)
- Adult Basic and Literacy Education (ABLE)
- Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Improvement Act (Perkins)

The Kasich Administration sought and received approval from the Ohio General Assembly under Ohio House Bill 486 (130th General Assembly) to submit a single unified state plan for the three largest workforce programs. Ohio will be just the fourth state to submit a unified plan, and the first to submit a plan that includes Perkins-funded programs. The unified plan will have three goals:

- Help more Ohioans compete for quality jobs that pay a living wage and lead to career advancement
- Help Ohio employers find the talent they need to succeed and grow
- Provide effective and efficient job training aligned to high-demand occupations and employer needs and resulting in workplace-valued credentials

In the spring of 2014, the Governor's Office of Workforce Transformation (OWT) began working with a diverse group of stakeholders to draft Ohio's unified plan. OWT is currently hosting public meetings and soliciting feedback and plans to submit the final unified plan to the U.S. Department of Labor and the U.S. Department of Education by December 31, 2014.

The draft plan recommends the following reforms to programs in all counties that are funded by WIOA, ABLE and Perkins:

1. **Registration at OhioMeansJobs.com:** Ensure that participants in all programs register at OhioMeansJobs.com or an OhioMeansJobs Center.
2. **Common Application:** Develop a single intake application for all programs.
3. **Common Case Management System:** Create a single case management system for use by all programs.
4. **Common Performance Metrics:** Measure progress and success uniformly across the state and identify best practices and improvement opportunities.
5. **Common Assessment Strategy:** Identify and implement a standard approach to assessing individual skills and abilities.
6. **Job Readiness and Soft-Skill Training:** Offer a uniform curriculum addressing job readiness and soft skills for participants in all programs.
7. **Career Counseling:** Expand access to high-quality career counseling for all participants and ensure that participants understand how best to transition to higher levels of training and credentials.
8. **Remediation and High School Equivalency:** Expand access to remediation and GED programs through a statewide outreach and recruitment campaign.
9. **Local Unified Plan:** Engage with local partners and employers to ensure that local workforce development boards create local unified plans that are responsive to the needs of students, adults and employers within their communities; clarify the role of each program; and define methods for improving outcomes.
10. **Co-Enrollment:** Where applicable, co-enroll individuals in all relevant programs.

Bottom Line: OWT will collaborate with local workforce development partners and stakeholders to create a unified workforce system that helps employers find the workers necessary to succeed and helps workers access the information and skills training they need to compete for in-demand jobs in Ohio.