

July 1, 2023

Craig Zurn, WDB Chairperson
Pocono Counties Workforce Development Board
811 Blakeslee Blvd. Dr.
E, 2nd Floor, Suite 85
Lehighton, PA 18235

Dear Mr. Zurn,

The Pennsylvania Department of Labor & Industry, or Department, has approved the Northeast Region Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Program Year (PY) 2021-2024 plan modification with conditions. Please see a copy of the “conditions” attached. A regional plan modification, and its associated local plan modifications, must be fully compliant with all federal and state statutes, regulations, policies, and grant agreements to receive full approval by the Department. Per WIOA, this conditional approval extends to the local plan modifications associated with the local workforce development areas that comprise the planning region. The Northeast Region is composed of the following local workforce development areas:

- Lackawanna County Workforce Development Area
- Luzerne/Schuylkill County Workforce Development Area
- Pocono Counties Workforce Development Area

Currently, the Department is coordinating with representatives of Lackawanna, Luzerne/Schuylkill, and Pocono Counties to finalize components of these local areas’ WIOA plan modifications. Conditional approval is effective through the end of the calendar year (i.e., December 31, 2023). Upon acceptance of all required items by the Department, the regional plan modification and its associated local plan modifications will be fully ratified and full approval will be extended through June 30, 2025.

Approval of this plan modification does not constitute approval of any practice that conflicts with federal and state statutes, regulations, or policies, nor does approval preclude the commonwealth from, at its discretion, readdressing any part of the plan if content is found that conflicts with such statutes, regulations, or policies.

You and your staff are to be commended for your successful efforts to develop the PY 2021-2024 plan modification in alignment with WIOA and the Commonwealth’s WIOA Combined State Plan Modification.

Please direct specific questions regarding your plan, the planning process and/or future requests for plan modification to Christopher Manlove at (717) 787-9804 or cmanlove@pa.gov.

Sincerely,



Brenda Dupstadt
Bureau of Workforce Development Administration Director

cc: Honorable Wayne E. Nothstein, Chair-Carbon County Board of Commissioners, Local Elected Officials
Samuel Hellen, Executive Director, Pocono Counties Workforce Development Board

Addendum to the PA Department of Labor & Industry's Approval
of the Lackawanna PY 2021-2024 Local Area Plan Modification

Conditions

To gain final approval of the Lackawanna PY **2021-2024 WIOA** Local Area Plan Modification, the local board must provide a written response to the Department no later than September 29th, 2023, that includes the items described below.

1. Documentation that the local board completed their 30-day public comment period and replied to comments received, as evidenced by updated narrative in local area modification prompt 5.5. In addition, all applicable items listed on the Pennsylvania WIOA Plans Submission Checklist, Fiscal Year 2021-2024 WIOA Regional and Local Area Plan Modification, must be submitted for final submission. This must include but is not limited to a clean copy of the regional plan modification, a clean copy of the local area plan modification, completed attestations, completed Attachments 1-3, documentation of public notice/public comment, and Attachment 4 (if applicable) which must be emailed to the following account: RA-LI-BWDA-Policy@pa.gov.
2. Documentation that the local board had the opportunity to vote and approve both the revised regional and local area plan modification for final submission. This must include but is not limited to a submission cover letter using L&I's template and the applicable WIOA Plan Review and Modification Form(s) which must be included in the regional and local area plan modification package and emailed to the following account: RA-LI-BWDA-Policy@pa.gov.
3. Documentation that the CEO was aware of the vote and consents to the final submission of the revised regional and local area plan modifications. This must include but is not limited to a submission cover letter using L&I's template and the applicable WIOA Plan Review and Modification Form(s) which must be included in the regional and local area plan modification package and emailed to the following account: RA-LI-BWDA-Policy@pa.gov.

Addendum to the PA Department of Labor & Industry's Approval
of the Luzerne/Schuylkill PY 2021-2024 Local Area Plan Modification

Conditions

To gain final approval of the Luzerne/Schuylkill PY **2021-2024 WIOA** Local Area Plan Modification, the local board must provide a written response to the Department no later than October 30th, 2023, that includes the items described below.

1. Documentation that the local board completed their 30-day public comment period and replied to comments received, as evidenced by updated narrative in local area modification prompt 5.5. In addition, all applicable items listed on the Pennsylvania WIOA Plans Submission Checklist, Fiscal Year 2021-2024 WIOA Regional and Local Area Plan Modification, must be submitted for final submission. This must include but is not limited to a clean copy of the regional plan modification, a clean copy of the local area plan modification, completed attestations, completed Attachments 1-3, documentation of public notice/public comment, and Attachment 4 (if applicable) which must be emailed to the following account: RA-LI-BWDA-Policy@pa.gov.
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3. Documentation that the CEO was aware of the vote and consents to the final submission of the revised regional and local area plan modifications. This must include but is not limited to a submission cover letter using L&I's template and the applicable WIOA Plan Review and Modification Form(s) which must be included in the regional and local area plan modification package and emailed to the following account: RA-LI-BWDA-Policy@pa.gov.

Addendum to the PA Department of Labor & Industry's Approval
of the Pocono Counties PY 2021-2024 Local Area Plan Modification

Conditions

To gain final approval of the Pocono Counties PY **2021-2024 WIOA** Local Area Plan Modification, the local board must provide a written response to the Department no later than September 29th, 2023, that includes the items described below.

1. Documentation that the local board completed their 30-day public comment period and replied to comments received, as evidenced by updated narrative in local area modification prompt 5.5. In addition, all applicable items listed on the Pennsylvania WIOA Plans Submission Checklist, Fiscal Year 2021-2024 WIOA Regional and Local Area Plan Modification, must be submitted for final submission. This must include but is not limited to a clean copy of the regional plan modification, a clean copy of the local area plan modification, completed attestations, completed Attachments 1-3, documentation of public notice/public comment, and Attachment 4 (if applicable) which must be emailed to the following account: RA-LI-BWDA-Policy@pa.gov.
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