

Illinois' WIOA State Plan Requirements Under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)

Under the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), each state must submit for approval a State Plan to create a cohesive workforce system across multiple required programs. A function of the IWIB is the development, implementation and modification of this plan.

While the law provides the framework for the State Plan, the oversight agencies (U.S. Departments of Labor and Education) issued further guidance instructing states on October 31, 2023, on what to include in the plan, as well as the submission process and deadline.

Illinois used a previously formed State Planning Work Group to craft this new plan, as was done during the development of the 2022 modification to the 2020 State Plan. This process included development and review of State workforce strategies and activities to achieve the State's workforce goals and vision based on labor market information, stakeholder feedback and other studies of the state's Workforce Development System over the past several years. Additionally, the work group included, per federal guidance, current efforts of the workforce, education and economic development systems. Concerted efforts were made to ensure alignment with statewide initiatives and within state agencies, including relevant agency strategic planning efforts.

Illinois' State Plan Work Group has ensured each of the requirements are met in the 2024 State Plan.

The work group also recognizes and has incorporated major initiatives that span beyond WIOA requirements. This includes the Governor's Commission on Workforce Equity and Access and the IWIB's Equity Task Force. Both groups' work and stakeholder engagement activities have informed the development of the State Plan.

Furthermore, to elicit feedback from stakeholders, a series of webinars and in-person listening sessions were held to gather feedback. Based on this feedback and the work of the planning group, a draft State Plan was developed. Furthermore, a public comment period will be held between January 10, 2024, and February 7, 2024.

A timeline for the State process immediately follows.

TIMELINE

ACTIVITY	DUE DATE
IWIB approves draft for public comment	December 7, 2023
Public comment period starts	January 10, 2024
Public webinar/dialog regarding State Plan	January 10, 2024
Incorporate input received during public comment period	February 7 – February 16, 2024

IWIB Executive Committee approval on behalf of full IWIB	February/March 2024
Submit to DOL	Early March 2024
Last date to submit to USDOL	March 4, 2024