

**Alaska Workforce Investment Board**  
**Statewide Input Plan**  
**Approved by Ex Co August 14, 2012**

**The Issue:**

During the development of Alaska's Workforce Investment Act (WIA) state planning process, it was decided to establish a statewide single planning catchment area as a solution to excessive administrative costs, inconsistencies in regional services and a desire to improve overall performance. The Alaska Workforce Investment Board (AWIB) received a federal waiver (WIA regulation 20 CFR 661.300(f)) to allow a statewide board to carry out the roles and responsibilities of a local board for purposes of WIA implementation. The waiver requires strategies to enable the AWIB to carry out the various roles and oversight of local boards across the state. These strategies include gathering information on trends, input on workforce needs, emerging priority industries, employment, education, professional development and training programs at a regional level.

**Background:**

The AWIB's statutory purpose is to develop and implement an efficient, effective and integrated state human resource investment system. The comprehensive system provides employment education and training programs, and services to insure that all Alaskans have the skills and opportunities necessary to earn a living wage. A skilled workforce is critical in meeting future employment and business needs of the state, and will encourage growth of business and industry. The Board advises and makes recommendations to the Governor regarding human investment needs and solutions to meet those needs, while maximizing federal and state funds and avoiding duplication of effort.

It is critical that AWIB attains input on workforce needs, employment education, and training programs from all of Alaska. The AWIB has investigated different models on how to attain input across the state from all regions. In 2003 a formal process was established to form Regional Advisory Committees (RACs) to provide AWIB with a strong linkage to local employers, development projects and regional workforce issues. Not all areas of the state are recognized or structured as a RAC. In some areas the Alaska Regional Development Organizations (ARDORs) have provided input to the AWIB on local workforce development priorities. Many rural communities utilize other various avenues of communication and organizations for local workforce development and planning needs i.e. local job centers, regional training centers etc. The AWIB meets three times a year and ensures that time for public comment is included on the agenda. At this time, the AWIB hears and takes under advisement comments, concerns, information and challenges regarding Alaska's workforce. Items which require action are forwarded to the AWIC Executive Committee.

The common thread and strength in the Alaska workforce development system is the statewide representation on the AWIB. The AWIB members are appointed because of their expertise in their respective workforce and geographic area and represent industry, for-profit and non-profit business and government. Members are also well connected and associated to the workforce development

needs of the state. The most effective way to assure the AWIB is attaining input on workforce needs, employment education, and training programs from all of Alaska is to utilize the knowledge, expertise and connections that each AWIB member brings to the table.

### A Proposed Solution

The following is a proposed method for meeting the requirements of the waiver (WIA regulations at 20 CFR 661.300(f) to allow the statewide board to carry out the roles required of local boards and for the AWIB to obtain input on workforce needs, employment, education, professional development and training programs from all of Alaska.

AWIB members should keep abreast of the workforce development activities and needs in their geographic area. Possible ways to keep informed are by attending community meetings, RAC/ARDOR meetings and corresponding with constituents/public, etc.

AWIB members should be a point of contact for the variety sources in each respective region and forward communications to the appropriate committees, council or staff to address the topic and if determined necessary, move the topic to the Executive Committee.

In addition to the information provided by the board members, the AWIB currently receives input from a variety of sources including employers, local job centers, Regional Training Centers, University of Alaska campuses, economic development organizations, and training providers throughout the state. Information will be provided to:

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