

Workforce Investment Act

Frequently Asked Questions

Vol. IV

This publication is intended to address some of the most frequently asked questions regarding the Workforce Investment Act, One-Stop systems, local authority and other program related interests. The questions listed are not exhaustive and often represent a series of questions around a specific topic. Answers have been developed that are consistent with federal and state rules and policy. References are included.

47. Will another 5-year plan be required when the current plan expires? If so, when will guidelines be released?

It is not known at this time if another 5 year plan will be required or if the current 5 year plan will be extended. Once the re-authorization of WIA occurs, the U.S. Department of Labor will release guidelines to the states indicating how to proceed with the 5 year plan. Most likely, if there are changes to WIA, at a minimum, the plan will need to be modified to address those changes. If a local area wants to begin some preliminary work on their 5 year plan the state suggests using the current guidelines as a starting point.

48. How does a local area modify their 5 year plan?

The state is currently drafting a policy on plan modification and it should be released in "clearance" shortly. Local areas have been informed that if there are changes to their local plan, a letter should be sent to the Bureau of Workforce Services indicating the changes to the plan. The letter must be signed by the Workforce Development Agency and the Chair of the Workforce Investment Board. The Bureau of Workforce Services then sends acknowledgement of the changes back to the local area.

49. What happens if expenditures in a local area exceed their allocation?

If a local area's spending exceeds the base allocation, the state, where the state is the fiscal agent, will determine if there is a fund balance from the previous year. If so, excess expenditures will be charged against those older funds. If that approach does not close the gap, the state will determine if there are currently allocated funds from a later year that are available for that area and charge excess expenditures against them. As a final resort, administrative funds may be utilized, if available. If there are no available funds, a local debt could be incurred.

Where the state is not the fiscal agent, the local area is responsible for their area cash management. Adjustments would be made at the discretion of the local Workforce Investment Board and Grant Recipient.

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50. How will the approximately \$35 Million in TANF Incentive be distributed in State Fiscal Year 2003 (SFY03)?

The TANF Incentive funds will be distributed in the same manner as in SFY02 for the first two quarters of SFY03. Over the next few months we will be considering the possibility of implementing the use of performance criteria for one or both of the final two quarters of the year. Any such proposed policy change will be discussed with the Workforce Development and Fiscal ELC's prior to implementation. In the absence of specific changes to the policy, current policy will continue for the remainder of SFY03.

51. Will Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC) services be available for access through local One-Stops with or without a memorandum of understanding that provides for state staffing at the One-Stop?

There are no plans at this time to locate state staff in the One-Stop operations offices for WOTC purposes. We intend to make this service available for the local business community access and others who may have an interest. The website link to access WOTC information is www.state.oh.us/odjfs/wotc/. ODJFS encourages all local One-Stops to include information on these tax credit programs as part of the employer packets for distribution. If local area One-Stops need brochures, they may be ordered at <http://www.state.oh.us/odhs/manuals/ohohspubs.htm> or by contacting the Bureau of Tax Credit Services at (614) 644-7206.

52. Will additional regional One-Stop technical assistance be provided to local areas? When?

Yes. The success of the MOU and Certification Guide Seminars has prompted us to continue this form of technical assistance. We will be developing a series of seminars that will be offered quarterly in six sites across the State. This will allow us to offer four different series of seminars per year, in six areas across Ohio. The following Technical Assistance Seminars are being scheduled:

Date	Site
1. October 16, 2002	Delaware JVS
2. October 24, 2002	Warren County One-Stop
3. November 7, 2002	OU – Southern Campus, Ironton
4. November 21, 2002	Sandusky County One-Stop
5. December 5, 2002	Stark County One-Stop
6. December 19, 2002	Cuyahoga County Brookpark One-Stop

Proposed agenda items for these first round sessions will include a brief overview of the One-Stop pilot experience to date with a primary focus on the recently published U. S. Department of Labor Technical Assistance Guide on One-Stop Cost Sharing.

In the following weeks, a technical assistance needs survey will be sent to One-Stop Operators to solicit input as to their various technical assistance needs.

There are several questions remaining surrounding the Area 7 Workforce Investment Board's responsibilities as well as the certification approach for local

One-Stop operations. These questions are to be addressed by the U.S. Department of Labor and will be included in a future edition of this publication.