



Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity

Bruce Rauner, Governor

January 12, 2015

Dr. Karen Hunter Anderson
Executive Director
Illinois Community College Board
401 East Capitol
Springfield, Illinois 62701

Dear Dr. Anderson:

The Adult Education Reporting Act (105ILCS 410/2) requires the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) to file a report on an annual basis listing all education, training or intern programs, grants, loans or other services it administers or makes available for providing education or training to Illinois adult citizens.

Programs currently administered by the Department that meet the above criteria include:

Eliminate the Digital Divide Act (EDD)

Through the Digital Divide program, DCEO provides grants to plan, establish, administer and expand Community Technology Centers (CTCs). CTC programs provide computer access and educational services using information technology to individuals, communities, and populations that typically would not otherwise have opportunities to use computer and telecommunications technologies.

Employer Training Investment Program (ETIP)

ETIP provides training grants to Illinois businesses and business associations to assist with the training needs of new and incumbent workers. The training should be a direct result of a permanent expansion, location or retention activity.

Employment Opportunities Grant Program (EOGP)

Historically underrepresented populations now have an opportunity to enter and complete building trades apprentice programs and achieve journey-level status within building trade unions through EOGP. These are careers that are physically and mentally demanding, but which offer wages and benefits on which a family can be supported.

Incumbent Worker Training Program

The Incumbent Worker Training Program was developed to provide a full continuum of training services that address the needs of the existing workforce, the unemployed and new entrants to the

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labor force. It was created to encourage local business to participate in sector based approaches by encouraging the strong public-private partnerships to improve the needs of the workforce. Local Workforce Investment Boards (LWIBs) are allowed to divert up to 10% of their dislocated worker local allocations to support Incumbent Worker Training Programs that are part of a layoff aversion strategy.

Job Training and Economic Development Program (JTED)

JTED programs create partnerships between community-based providers and employers in order to provide customized training to low-skilled, low-wage employees and unemployed disadvantaged persons.

Sector Based Initiatives

Over the past decade, Illinois has been at the forefront of innovative solutions focusing on public-private partnerships that help address critical skills shortages in local and regional economies. These strategies were designed to help achieve the desired linkage between workforce programs and economic development. Local Workforce Investment Boards (LWIBs) will provide the important leadership to make this initiative a success. Due to the severe reduction in discretionary funding at the state level, very few, if any, new grants will be issued for the foreseeable future.

Illinois Pathways, funded through Race to the Top, is an innovative State of Illinois-led STEM education initiative designed to support college and career readiness for all students. Supported by a partnership between the State of Illinois' education and economic development agencies, Illinois Pathways supports local programs that empower students to explore their academic and career interests while also supporting new statewide, public-private partnerships known as Learning Exchanges that better coordinate investments, resources and planning for those programs.

Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA)

This program was established to assist workers who became unemployed (or whose hours of work and wages are reduced) as a result of increased imports from, or shifts of production to, a foreign country. To facilitate this goal, TAA offers a variety of benefits for training, i.e., income support, job retraining, relocation allowances, and out-of-area job search allowances. On December 31, 2014, the TAA program was scheduled to sunset. However, on December 15, 2014, President Obama signed the Consolidated Further Continuing Appropriations Act of 2015 to appropriate funds for states to carry out the TAA program for an additional year.

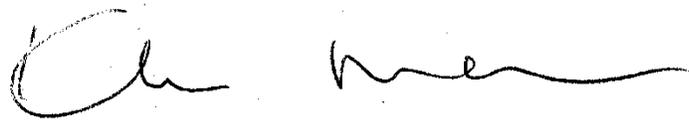
Workforce Investment Act (WIA)/ Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)

WIA combines federally-funded job training programs in Illinois into a "workforce development" system where individuals can find a job or train for a new career. Services are provided through the state's Illinois workNet® system. Individuals, who wish to apply for available training programs or obtain other services, may report to one of the Illinois workNet Centers for assistance or access services through the Illinois workNet portal. The 23 LWIAs, under the guidance of a local workforce investment board (LWIB), develop employment services and training programs that reflect the needs and opportunities of the area.

President Barack Obama signed the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) into law on July 22, 2014. WIOA is designed to help job seekers access employment, education, training, and support services to succeed in the labor market and to match employers with the skilled workers they need to compete in the global economy. Congress passed the Act by a wide bipartisan majority; it is the first legislative reform in 15 years of the public workforce system.

WIOA supersedes the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 and amends the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act, the Wagner-Peyser Act, and the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. In general, the Act takes effect on July 1, 2015, the first full program year after enactment, unless otherwise noted. The U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) will issue further guidance on the timeframes for implementation of these changes and proposed regulations reflecting the changes in WIOA soon after enactment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Therese McMahon', written in a cursive style.

Therese McMahon, Deputy Director
Office of Employment and Training

TM/mab