



INNOVATE

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

April 20, 2021

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Arkansas Division of Workforce
Services

VIA Zoom (Webinar/Teleconference)
SOCIAL DISTANCING – COVID-19

Arkansas Workforce Development Board

Full Board Meeting



AGENDA

April 20, 2021

ARKANSAS WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD FULL BOARD MEETING

10:00 a.m.

Estimated Time: 1 hour, 48 minutes

Call to Order & Roll Call (3 min) Tom Anderson, Chair

Report of Chairperson (5 mins)..... Tom Anderson, Chair

Report of Director (5 mins)..... Dr. Charisse Childers, Director
Arkansas Division of Workforce Services

Report of Staff (5 mins)..... Kris Jones, Financial Management - Assistant Director
Arkansas Division of Workforce Services

Report of Staff (5 mins)..... Eddie Thomas, Employment Assistance - Assistant Director
Arkansas Division of Workforce Services

Agenda Item 1: ACTION

Minutes of January 26, 2021 Full Board Meeting (2 min) Tom Anderson, Chair

Report of Committee

- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
Oversight Committee Overview (2 mins)Gan Nunnally, Committee Chair

Agenda Item 2: INFORMATIONAL

PY19 WIOA Program Annual Report Updates (10 mins) Megan Lamb, Field Administrator
Arkansas State Services for the Blind – Arkansas Division of Workforce Services

Agenda Item 3: INFORMATIONAL

WIOA Roundtable Activities Report (15 mins) Elroy Willoughby, Program Operations Chief
Arkansas Division of Workforce Services

Agenda Item 4: INFORMATIONAL

2021 WIOA Partners Meeting Update (10 mins)..... Elroy Willoughby, Program Operations Chief
Arkansas Division of Workforce Services

Agenda Item 5: INFORMATIONAL

Arkansas Unemployment Claims Resource
Planning Dashboard (15 mins) Robert McGough, Dep. Chief Data Officer
Division of Information Systems
Arkansas Department of Transformation & Shared Services

Agenda Item 6: INFORMATIONAL

USDOL *Workforce Wednesdays* Technical Assistance
and Training Sessions Updates (10 mins)Stephanie Blair, Program Operations Mgr.
Arkansas Division of Workforce Services

Agenda Item 7: INFORMATIONAL

Eligible Training Provider List (ETPL) and
AJL ProviderLink Overview (10 mins)..... Kris Jones, Financial Management - Assistant Director
Arkansas Division of Workforce Services

Board Open Discussion (5 mins)

Public Opportunity to Address the Board (3 mins)

Announcements (3 mins)

Adjournment



**For Consideration of the
Arkansas Workforce Development Board**

April 20, 2021

AGENDA ITEM 1 – ACTION: Minutes of the January 26, 2021, Arkansas Workforce Development Board meeting.

RECOMMENDATION: It is recommended that the Arkansas Workforce Development Board approve the minutes of the January 26, 2021, Arkansas Workforce Development Board meeting.

INFORMATION/RATIONALE: Minutes of the meetings are attached.

UNOFFICIAL

MINUTES
ARKANSAS WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD
January 26, 2021

The Arkansas Workforce Development Board convened the Full Board meeting through electronic means on January 26, 2021, beginning at 10:47 a.m. The meeting was conducted remotely utilizing Zoom and teleconference. Chair Tom Anderson presided with the following members voicing their presence: Mr. Joseph Baxter, Mr. Len Blaylock III, Ms. Karen Breashears, Mr. Scott Bull, Dr. Charisse Childers, Judge Brandon Ellison, Mr. Randy Finegan, Mr. Jeff Griffin, Mr. Randy Henderson, Ms. Abby Houseworth, Mr. Charles Johnson, Mr. Johnny Key, Ms. Candice Lawrence, Mr. Brian Marsh, Dr. Trenia Miles, Mr. George “Gan” Nunnally, Mr. Steve Sparks proxy for Secretary Mike Preston, Dr. Julie Roberson, Mayor James Sanders, Ms. Betsy Barnes proxy for Dr. Cassandra Williams-Stokes, Mr. Robert Thorne, and Dr. Diana Wright.

Mr. Lindsay Brown, Ms. Chanda Chacon, Ms. Melissa Hanesworth, Mr. Alan Hughes, Ms. Rebecca Ives, Ms. Holley Little were unable to attend. Ms. Alisha Lewis proxy for Dr. Maria Markham had trouble calling in to the phone line.

Chairman’s Opening Comments: Due to technical issues, Chair Anderson called the meeting to order at 10:47 a.m. upon seeing a quorum. Chair Anderson stated for the record that, the One-Stop Certification Document was tabled previously in April, July, October and January due to COVID-19 delays and will continue to be tabled with the hope to revisit this item in the April 2021 Full Board meeting.

Report of Board Director: Chair Tom Anderson recognized Arkansas Workforce Development Board Director, Arnell Willis. Mr. Willis announced his retirement as Director of the State Board. He stated his pleasure with the progress being made in the ongoing development of the State’s Workforce System. He expressed the pleasure of serving as Board’s Director along with missing everyone.

Agenda Item 1 – ACTION – Minutes of the October 20, 2020, Full Board Meeting: Chair Tom Anderson asked if there were any additional corrections or revisions to the October 20, 2020, Full Board meeting minutes.

Hearing none, a motion to accept the October 20, 2020, Full Board meeting minutes with no corrections or revisions was made by Ms. Karen Breashears followed by Mr. Robert Thorne making the second motion. The motion carried unanimously with none opposed.

The following votes were recorded and voiced by Board Members on a roll vote to Approve, Disapprove, or Abstain for no vote: Mr. Joseph Baxter – Approve, Mr. Len Blaylock III – Approve, Ms. Karen Breashears – Approve, Mr. Lindsay Brown – Absent, Mr. Scott Bull – Approve, Ms. Chanda Chacon – Absent, Dr. Charisse Childers – Approve, Judge Brandon Ellison – Approve, Mr. Randy Finegan – Approve, Mr. Jeff Griffin – Absent, Ms. Melissa Hanesworth – Absent, Mr. Randy Henderson – Approve, Ms. Abby Houseworth – Approve, Mr. Alan Hughes – Absent, Ms. Rebecca Ives – Absent, Mr. Charles Johnson – No Vote Voiced, Mr. Johnny Key – No Vote Voiced, Ms. Candice Lawrence – Approve, Ms. Holley Little – Absent, Dr. Maria Markham – No Vote Voiced, Mr. Brian Marsh – Approve, Dr. Trenia Miles – Approve, Mr. George Nunnally – Approve, Mr. Steve Sparks proxy for Secretary Mike Preston – Approve, Dr. Julie Roberson – Approve, Mayor James Sanders – Approve, Mr. Kelley Sharp – Approve, Ms. Betsy Barnes

proxy for Dr. Cassondra Williams-Stokes – Approve, Mr. Robert Thorne – Approve, and Dr. Diana Wright – Approve.

Report of Chairperson: Chair Anderson informed Board Members he has been monitoring the Local Workforce Development Boards across the state by Zoom along with the National Governors Association (NGA) State Chairs and Liaisons meeting in March. Chair Anderson proceeded with informing Board Members about the Workforce Information Advisory Council (WIAC) Committee under the Secretary of Labor which he was appointed to last year. The committee deals with the Bureau of Labor Statistics, which reports its findings to the Department of Labor.

Report of Director: Chair Tom Anderson recognized Board Member and Arkansas Division of Workforce Services (ADWS) Director, Dr. Charisse Childers to address the Full Board. Dr. Childers discussed the bills in the General Assembly. The Arkansas Division of Workforce Services has the following four bills: Three bills regarding unemployment; one bill specific to TANF; and one bill regarding the Work Pace Program. Arkansas Rehabilitation Services (ARS) has two bills currently filed: one regarding an amendment of the forgiveness of student loans; and, the other the telecommunications access program which would allow more revenue. Dr. Childers stated the unemployment rate decreased to 4.2% in December 2020 from 6.3% in November 2020. Dr. Childers reported the civilian labor workforce had an increase of 38,904 as a result of 65,543 more Arkansans employed and 26,639 fewer Arkansans unemployed. The US job rate held steady at 6.7%. In December 2019, the number of unemployed Arkansans was down to 12,396. However, the number of unemployed Arkansans increased sharply from December 2019 to December 2020 with significant gains in several categories. Dr. Childers indicated there were four changes to the several unemployment programs and one new program was added with the Continued Assistance Act for Unemployed Workers in 2020. The following have been reinstated until March 13, 2021: Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC) with an additional \$300 per week, Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA), Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (PUC) was reinstated with additional weeks, Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC) was reinstated with additional weeks, and the new program Mixed Earners Compensation provides an additional \$100 per week. Dr Childers stated the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) program now requires additional documentation along an identity verification beginning February 8, 2021. The details for the Mixed Earners Compensation will be administered by the local offices around mid-February. Dr. Childers stated as of January 16, 2021 unemployment claims dropped to 4,079 but still higher than the reported 1,804 unemployment claims from January 16, 2020. Dr. Childers announced the promotion of Mr. Kris Jones to Assistant Director of Office of Financial Management. He took the place of Mr. Brian Hicks upon Mr. Hicks' retirement at the end of December 2020.

Report of Staff: Chair Anderson recognized Board Staff Mr. Kris Jones. Mr. Jones spoke about his time with WIOA and about looking forward to his new position as Assistant Director of Office of Financial Management. Mr. Jones thanked the staff for the rollout of the Work Base Learning program, Virtual Job Fairs, TANF grants, the short term benefits program enacted by the CARES Act, and the progress of the longitudinal data bases tied in with the Ready For Life Project.

Report of Committees:

The meetings of the Strategic Planning, TANF Oversight, and Program and Performance Evaluation committees of the Arkansas Workforce Development Board have been canceled indefinitely. Committee meetings have not convened since the first quarter of 2020 due to COVID-19 pandemic.

Agenda Item 2 – Action – Council Resolution 2021-1: Chair Anderson brought attention to Council Resolution 2021-1 for the Board Member stipend payments. Arkansas Law allows Boards to pay stipends of \$110 to those non-governmental members who choose to accept them. The board members shall receive no other compensation, expense reimbursement, or in-lieu-of payments.

As presented with no revisions, a motion to accept the Council Resolution 2021-1, Board Member Stipend was made by Mr. Kelley Sharp followed by Ms. Karen Breashears making the second motion. The motion carried unanimously with none opposed.

The following votes were recorded and voiced by Board Members on a roll vote to Approve, Disapprove, or Abstain for no vote: Mr. Joseph Baxter – Approve, Mr. Len Blaylock III – Approve, Ms. Karen Breashears – Approve, Mr. Lindsay Brown – Absent, Mr. Scott Bull – Approve, Ms. Chanda Chacon – Absent, Dr. Charisse Childers – Approve, Judge Brandon Ellison – Approve, Mr. Randy Finegan – Approve, Mr. Jeff Griffin – Absent, Ms. Melissa Hanesworth – Absent, Mr. Randy Henderson – Approve, Ms. Abby Houseworth – Approve, Mr. Alan Hughes – Absent, Ms. Rebecca Ives – Absent, Mr. Charles Johnson – Approve, Mr. Johnny Key – No Vote Voiced, Ms. Candice Lawrence – Approve, Ms. Holley Little – Absent, Dr. Maria Markham – No Vote Voiced, Mr. Brian Marsh – Approve, Dr. Trenia Miles – Approve, Mr. George Nunnally – Approve, Mr. Steve Sparks proxy for Secretary Mike Preston – Approve, Dr. Julie Roberson – Approve, Mayor James Sanders – Approve, Mr. Kelley Sharp – Approve, Ms. Betsy Barnes proxy for Dr. Cassandra Williams-Stokes – Approve, Mr. Robert Thorne – Approve, and Dr. Diana Wright – Approve.

Agenda Item 3 – Action – Administrative Forms – New Year: Chair Anderson recognized Board Staff Ms. Rebecca Edwards to review the administrative forms for the Board to update their personal information for the new year in the database system. Ms. Edwards informed members January 31, 2021 was the deadline to file annual financial interest disclosure statements with the Arkansas Secretary of State. Additionally, ADWS offered assistance for notary services and filing.

Agenda Item 4 – Informational – Program Year 2019 WIOA – Annual Report Narrative Updates: Chair Anderson recognized WIOA Roundtable members who represent the WIOA Core Programs to provide updates regarding activities during PY 2019. WIOA Core Partners presenting today were Kris Jones, Assistant Director, Arkansas Division of Workforce Services Employment Assistance; Dr. Trenia Miles, Director of Adult Education Section and Ms. Christy Lamas, Deputy Commissioner of Arkansas Rehabilitation Services. Dr. Cassandra Williams-Stokes, Director of Arkansas Division of Services for the Blind, was not present today but had previously asked that she be allowed to make her presentation at the next Board Meeting. One of the functions of the Arkansas Workforce Development Board is to assist the Governor in preparation of the annual reports as described in WIOA Section 116(d) paragraphs (1) and (2) of WIOA Sec. 116(d). Mr. Kris Jones listed and discussed the major components of the narrative report while both he and Mr. Elroy Willoughby reported on WIOA Title I and III performance.

Board Members heard updates on WIOA Title IV from Arkansas Rehabilitation Services Deputy Commissioner, Christy Lamas. Ms. Lamas gave a brief summary of the Arkansas Rehabilitation Services training of real people with a disability to work and obtain an independent lifestyle. One of the largest sections of Arkansas Rehabilitation Services (ARS) is their Field Services. Ms. Lamas highlighted two people who had successfully gone through the program, Sara Murphy and Tonya Mays. Ms. Lamas then discussed the Arkansas Career Development Center (ACDC) which reports Field Services along with their accommodation section. They have added the following new programs: Virtual Security Classes reviewed by the Arkansas State Police; Virtual Driver Education; and direct services provided to other programs throughout the field offices. ARS operates a high school program in the summer through which high school

students can come together to learn and gain certifications. ACDC provides virtual Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA), Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), and Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) classes along with onsite Forklift training, virtual professional guest services, and a variety of other services to support ARS clients comprehensively. Ms. Lamas explained through the section called Business Engagement. ARS reaches out to businesses with their mission statement and collaborates with businesses to help clients find work and help keep individuals currently working to stay in their jobs. ARS serve young adults between the ages of 16-24 who want to engage and be a part of the workforce. Last year, ARS serviced 12,159 Arkansans with disabilities. Ms. Lamas then stated ARS is embracing the team approach by engaging all the sections with employers, business engagement services, hands-on assistance, technological expertise of doctors, psychologists, and occupational therapists, and professional one-on-one coaching of field services counselors to provide successful employment for our clients.

Board Members heard updates on WIOA Title II from Adult Education, Dr. Trenia Miles. Dr. Miles presented a Power-Point presentation on the Workforce Alliance for Growth in the Economy (WAGE). WAGE serves the unemployed and underemployed offering six types of certificates for employment. Dr. Miles stated out of 20,000 adult students, 80% are below an 8th - grade level. Dr. Miles discussed the two levels of WAGE Certificates, beginning with WAGE Level I. This level includes basic academic skills instruction, career exploration, financial literacy, digital literacy, and workforce preparation. The WAGE Level II Certificate is harder and requires placement, includes education/training in Manufacturing, Health Science, Business Management and Administration, Hospitality and Tourism, and Education and Training. Dr. Miles highlighted the Arkansas Education Providers – Northwest Technical Institute (NWTI) Adult Education and NWTI College Certified Nursing Assistant Bridge Program with nine completed CNA classes, 78 adult learners enrolled in CNA classes, 36% Educational Functioning Level (EFL) increase, and 68% certification achievers. Fort Smith Adult Education has partnered with the Department of Human Services (DHS) on the Peers Achieving Collaborative Treatment (PACT) Grant to serve incarcerated women in the local jail by providing education, childcare classes, and training for employment. Wal-Mart has donated \$12,000 to Fort Smith Adult Education (FSAE) to assist these women. Lastly, they have partnered with the Fort Smith School District in offering tutorial classes to help parents navigate online learning with their children. University of Arkansas Monticello (UAM)-McGehee – Adult Education Program has partnered with Simmons Bank located in Monticello, AR. Simmons Bank provided a \$2,500 grant to support workforce development which by offsetting testing fees through the General Education Diploma (GED) scholarship even though the State pays 80% of the GED testing. The grant will also be used to provide short-term training programs. Southern Arkansas University (SAU) – Tech Adult Education had 11 CNA graduates from November 2, 2020 – December 17, 2020. Seven out of the 11 graduates were TANF participants, six of the seven TANF clients made educational gains; all 11 received OSHA 410 in General Healthcare credential; and six have become employed. SAU-Tech Adult Education has partnered with SAU Tech College, TANF, Career Pathways Initiative, Pine Hills Rehab, Wentworth Nursing, and Title 1-B Adult Programs in ensuring the success of their students.

Agenda Item 5 – Informational – Reimagine Arkansas Workforce (RAW) Grant: Chair Anderson recognized Mr. Eduardo Lemm, ADWS Regulatory Specialist to provide a brief update to the Full Board. Mr. Lemm updated information regarding the Department of Education issuing a Notice of Inviting Applications (NIA) for the FY2020 Education Stabilization Fund – Reimagine Workforce (ESF-RWPO) Grants program under the CARES Act, making available \$127.5 million. The Arkansas Workforce Development Board was one of eight State Workforce Boards awarded this funding.

Agenda Item 6 – Informational – Workforce System Evaluation Project Update: Chair Anderson recognized Board Staff, Mr. Kris Jones to give a Workforce System Evaluation Project update. Mr. Jones reported evaluations of activities under the WIOA I Core Programs are being conducted in order to promote continuous improvement and research, test innovative services and strategies, and achieve high levels of performance and outcomes. A contract was entered into between ADWS and the University of Arkansas (UA) to carry out these requirements of federal regulation.

Agenda Item 7 – Informational – Arkansas Workforce Development Board Codes of Conduct: Chair Anderson recognized ADWS Policy Specialist, Dr. Claudia Griffin to review the Arkansas Workforce Development Board Codes of Conduct in accordance to the federal and state laws and regulations with the members of the Full Board. Dr. Griffin discussed conflict of interest, Freedom of Information Act, and the Arkansas Sunshine Law.

Agenda Item 8 – Informational – USDOL Governance TAT Project Updates: Chair Anderson recognized ADWS Employment Assistance Deputy Director, Beverly Lovett to discuss an opportunity to partake in the Arkansas Governance Training Project for the Local Workforce Development Board (LWDB) members, Arkansas Workforce Development Board (AWDB) Full Board members, and Chief Elected Officials(CEO), and other state stakeholders offered by the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) – Dallas Regional Office for State Governance training. Ms. Lovett highlighted the training covered an overview of the WIOA workforce development system; governance roles and responsibilities of the AWDB, Local Workforce Development Boards, and Chief Elected Officials; WIOA vision for state and local boards; state and local Board memberships; the roles of state and local board staff; and relationships to other system partners and components.

Board Open Discussion: Chair Anderson asked board members for any additional items for discussion. Hearing none, Chair Anderson opened the floor to allow the public the opportunity to speak before the Full Board.

Public Speaking Opportunity: Chair Anderson addressed members of the public attending the meeting through electronic means and extended the opportunity to speak before the Full Board. After opening the floor for the public and a brief silence with the telephone lines unmuted hearing no public comments, Chair Anderson moved into the announcements.

Announcements: Chair Anderson announced the committee meetings of the Arkansas Workforce Development Board will convene “as needed” due to the COVID-19 pandemic and out of respect for Board Member’s schedules. He added the next Full Board meeting is set for April 20, 2021. Board Staff will keep everyone aware of any changes to the schedule or the type of meeting, whether virtual or in-person, as the State progresses through COVID-19 under the guidance of Governor Asa Hutchinson.

Adjourn: As presented, Chair Tom Anderson adjourned the AWDB Full Board meeting at 12:07 p.m., on a motion made by Mr. Brian Marsh, followed by Mr. Randy Henderson making the second motion. The motion carried unanimously with none opposed.

The following votes were recorded and voiced by Board Members on a roll vote to Approve, Disapprove, or Abstain for no vote: Mr. Joseph Baxter – Approve, Mr. Len Blaylock III – Approve, Ms. Karen Breashears – Approve, Mr. Lindsay Brown – Absent, Mr. Scott Bull – Approve, Ms. Chanda Chacon – Absent, Dr. Charisse Childers – Approve, Judge Brandon Ellison – Approve, Mr. Randy Finegan – Approve, Mr. Jeff Griffin – No Vote Voiced, Ms. Melissa Hanesworth – Absent, Mr. Randy Henderson – Approve, Ms. Abby

Houseworth – Approve, Mr. Alan Hughes – Absent, Mr. Charles Johnson – Approve, Ms. Rebecca Ives – Absent, Mr. Johnny Key – No Vote Voiced, Ms. Candice Lawrence – Approve, Ms. Holley Little - Absent, Dr. Maria Markham – No Vote Voiced, Mr. Brian Marsh – Approve, Dr. Trenia Miles – Approve, Mr. George Nunnally – Absent, Secretary Mike Preston – No Vote Voiced, Dr. Julie Roberson – Approve, Mayor James Sanders – Approve, Mr. Kelley Sharp – Approve, Ms. Betsy Barnes proxy for Dr. Cassandra Williams-Stokes – Approve, Mr. Robert Thorne – No Vote Voiced, and Dr. Diana Wright – Approve.

Tom Anderson, Board Chair
Arkansas Workforce Development Board

Director Workforce Development
Arkansas Division of Workforce Services

*Minutes recorded by Monica Simon
Arkansas Division of Workforce Services Staff*

**For Consideration of the
Arkansas Workforce Development Board**

April 20, 2021

AGENDA ITEM 2 – INFORMATION: PY19 WIOA Program Annual Report Updates

INFORMATION/RATIONALE: The U.S. Department of Labor (USDOL) required States to submit their WIOA Program Annual Report Narrative on or before December 1 of each year. In accordance with this requirement, the State of Arkansas' Workforce System Partners compiled and transmitted the Program Year 2019 report to the USDOL on November 25, 2020.

The Arkansas Division of Workforce Services – Division of Services for the Blind will present their PY19 WIOA Program Annual Report Update to the Board.

ARKANSAS WORKFORCE
INNOVATION AND OPPORTUNITY
ACT (WIOA) TITLE I AND TITLE III
ANNUAL STATEWIDE
PERFORMANCE REPORT
PROGRAM YEAR 2019

ARKANSAS DIVISION OF WORKFORCE SERVICES

From the Director

As the Director of the Arkansas Division of Workforce Services (ADWS), I have the honor of presenting our Program Year 2019 annual report. It is designed to give readers a closer look at our programs, highlight the year's accomplishments, and demonstrate two of the agency's core values: transparency and results.

The focus of the Arkansas Division of Workforce Services is to provide individuals the tools they need to enhance and sustain their employability. And, through the education and skills training offered to jobseekers, employers are reducing hidden costs associated with lost production time and turnover rates by hiring qualified workers.

Arkansas, with leadership from the Governor and the State Workforce Board, is motivated to build strong partnerships among the state's workforce system stakeholders, job seekers and employers. This involves creating meaningful linkages between the education and workforce systems, aligning data so that metrics can be better defined and more easily measured; and helping people of all backgrounds gain employment and prosper in a rapidly changing economy.

Education and workforce development opportunities are critical to a strong economy. To aid in meeting these demands, ADWS will continue to collaborate with its partners and work closely with employers and job seekers to develop initiatives and offer effective programs and services to enrich the economic growth of Arkansas.

Together we are preparing today's workforce for tomorrow's careers.

Sincerely,



Charisse Childers
Ph.D. Director

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I. INTRODUCTION

Last year, 114,768 Arkansas residents accessed the state's workforce system for assistance in acquiring or retaining employment. They came from a wide array of demographics, characteristics, backgrounds and experiences: low-income, single parents, migrant and seasonal workers, single parents struggling to support themselves, workers displaced by a changing economy and veterans returning from active duty. Many needed assistance in connecting to unemployment benefits and assistance in determining next career steps. Others needed more basic, individualized or training services to overcome barriers to meaningful employment.

Two of the primary funding sources for these basic, individualized services are the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Title I and Wagner-Peyser Title III programs. This report provides an in-depth look at the impact those funds have had in Arkansas in Program Year 2019, July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020.

A. Overview of Arkansas' Workforce Development System

Arkansas' workforce development system is a coordinated and collaborative network of services, programs and investments with a shared goal of improving the skills of the state's workforce. In order to meet the challenge of the 21st century global economy, the public workforce system works in partnership with businesses, educators, organized labor and community leaders to foster economic development and high-growth opportunities in regional economies. This network further helps potential job candidates, particularly low-income youth, adults and displaced workers, overcome obstacles to successful employment. These services are coordinated through Arkansas Workforce Centers, the state's one-stop delivery system.

Primary funding for Arkansas Workforce Center operations and many of the basic and individualized services is provided by the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Title I and the Wagner-Peyser Act of 1933. Other formula-based and competitive federal, state and local resources and services that support our workforce system include Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), veteran services, USDOL National Dislocated Worker Grant (NDWG), Trade Adjustment Assistance, Migrant and Seasonal Farmworker Assistance and other partner program funds.

At the heart of the public workforce system, these Arkansas Workforce Centers are made up of one-stop career centers, affiliate, and connection sites. Arkansas Workforce Centers are the primary access point to qualified workers, as well as to a multitude of resources for businesses and job seekers. These Centers serve thousands of individuals who are seeking employment, changing jobs, reentering the workforce or learning new skills. This makes them the ideal venue for workforce solutions for job seekers and businesses alike.

At our Workforce Centers throughout the state, individuals can open a claim for unemployment insurance, find job openings, receive other job search assistance and attend workshops that can improve employability. Qualified individuals can find assistance with specific training in high demand occupations. Businesses can get help with workforce needs including recruitment, screening, employee training, layoff aversion, and employee retention.

B. The Arkansas Division of Workforce Services

In 2019, Arkansas Governor Asa Hutchinson signed the Transformation and Efficiencies Act of 2019 into law, cutting the number of cabinet-level agencies from 42 to 15. This piece of state legislation went into effect on July 1, 2019 and reflects a reorganization of the workforce partner agencies in Arkansas. Specifically, the Arkansas Department of Workforce Services became the Division of Workforce Services and incorporated the former Arkansas Rehabilitation Services, Division of Services for the Blind, and Adult Education Services. This report incorporates these changes and includes the following new acronyms:

- ADWS – Arkansas Division of Workforce Services
- DSB – Arkansas Division of Workforce Services - Division of Services for the Blind
- ARS – Arkansas Division of Workforce Services – Arkansas Rehabilitation Services
- AES – Arkansas Division of Workforce Services – Adult Education Services

C. Coordination Among All WIOA Titles

In an effort to ensure coordination among all the WIOA core partner programs in the development of this narrative report, the requirements for this report was shared among all core partners. The narrative report components were presented in an insertable grid format to allow each partner to provide narrative ideas in specific sections of this report. The completed narrative grid was then shared among the core partners for review and comment.

Throughout this report, we have broken out specific activities, by specific WIOA Titles, not to display individuality but rather to articulate how each program is aligned with the overall WIOA Program goals and strategies.

The major evidence of our enhanced coordination is the activities of the WIOA Roundtable. The WIOA Roundtable in the leadership group of the State's workforce system and includes members from ADWS, DSB, ARS and AES. The WIOA Roundtable meets regularly and hosts bi-annual statewide WIOA Partners Meetings in Central Arkansas. The attendees of these statewide meetings include representatives of core, non-core and ancillary workforce system partners. The agendas are developed jointly by ADWS, DSB, ARS and AES, provide an opportunity to share specific program information via plenary sessions as well as break-out sessions that provided opportunities to share idea, best practices and service delivery strategies.

D. State and Local Roles

The Arkansas Workforce Development Board (State Board) assists the Governor in overseeing the state's workforce development system. The core business of the State Board is to coordinate state policy and state strategic planning for the workforce development system, evaluating results and facilitating demonstration projects that test innovations and ideas. ADWS serves as the state's WIOA Title I grant recipient. These WIOA responsibilities include stewardship of the funds, oversight and monitoring activities, issuing statewide policy, management of grants and contracts and allocation of the WIOA Title I funds to the local area Workforce Development Boards (Local Boards) for the delivery of services within an integrated service delivery system. ADWS also fulfills an operational role within the workforce system through providing services funded under the Wagner-Peyser, Trade

Adjustment Assistance, Jobs for Veterans State Grants (JVSG), and Temporary Assistance for Needy Family (TANF) programs.

The Local Boards are the local conveners and managers of the workforce system through which WIOA programs are accessed. They are the strategic visionaries for local implementation of WIOA funds. There are ten (10) Local Boards in Arkansas and each is private industry led and locally focused. Local Board members are appointed by Chief Elected Officials (CEOs) and certified by the Governor. CEOs are the local area WIOA Title I grant recipients. CEOs direct their Local Boards' staff to administer the funds and oversee the area's Workforce Centers to most effectively respond to the local economy and needs of local citizens. Local Boards convene with regional partners and stakeholders to assess skill gaps, identify emerging and future employment possibilities and collaborate with economic developers and other partners to develop the region's workforce development plan.

E. WIOA Programs

WIOA Title I Youth Program

Who is served: Youth must be between 14 and 24 years old, low income (WIOA allows for a 5% exclusion) and meet other criteria described in the WIOA, such as a need for additional assistance to complete an educational program or to secure and hold employment.

Program description: The program prepares low-income youth ages 14 through 24 for success in school and the world of work. Eligible youth may receive counseling, tutoring, job training, mentoring or work experience. Other service options include summer employment, study skills training and instruction in obtaining a GED or equivalent.

WIOA Title I Adult Program

Who is served: Basic services are available to all adults with minimal eligibility requirements. Basic, individualized or training services are authorized for unemployed individuals unable to find jobs. In some cases, these services are available to employed workers who need more help to reach self-sufficiency.

Program description: The program prepares individuals 18 years and older for participation in the labor force by providing basic services and access to job training and other services. Services are coordinated through the state's workforce center system. Basic services include skill assessment, labor market information; consumer reports on training programs and job search and placement assistance. Individualized and training include more intensive assessments, work experiences and occupational skills training. Priority is given to veterans and eligible spouses as well as those individuals with barriers to employment.

WIOA Title I Dislocated Worker Program

Who is served: Dislocated workers are people who lost jobs due to plant closures, company downsizing or some other significant change in market conditions. In most cases, eligible workers are unlikely to return to their occupations because those jobs are no longer economically viable, and they must be eligible for (or have exhausted) unemployment compensation. Other conditions can lead to eligibility for services, such as separating military

service members and eligible spouses of military service members, being self-employed but not working as a result of general economic conditions or being a displaced home maker.

Program description: The program tailors employment and training services to meet dislocated workers' needs, establishes early intervention for workers and firms facing substantial layoffs and fosters labor, management and community partnerships with government to address worker dislocation. Dislocated workers are also eligible for basic services including skill assessment, labor market information, training program consumer reports and job search and placement assistance. Individualized and training include more intensive assessments, work experiences and occupational skills training.

WIOA Title II Adult Education Program

Who is served: There are hundreds of Arkansas adults who lack high school diplomas and the skills and knowledge to succeed in the twenty-first century workforce. This impacts every community in Arkansas. It's devastating to the adults who want to fulfill the American dream of a better life for themselves and their families.

Program description: The program is designed to provide adult learners with the tools to improve and refine their academic skills, attain the General Educational Development® Credential, and the life skills that prepare the citizen for self-sufficiency and improvement in the quality of life. Adult learners can access Adult Basic Education (ABE), English to Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL), Workplace Education, Correctional/Institutional Education (C&I), Workforce Alliance for Growth in the Economy TM (WAGE), Learning Disabilities Screening, GED Testing Services, the Arkansas Adult Learning Resource Center (AALRC) and Family Literacy.

WIOA Title III Wagner-Peyser Program

Who is served: Career services are available to anyone who is legally entitled to work in the United States no matter one's age or employment status. Through Title III, basic and individualized career services are offered. A veteran or his or her eligible spouse has a priority to receive such services.

Program description: The Wagner-Peyser Act of 1933 established a nationwide system of public employment offices, known as the Employment Service. The Employment Service seeks to improve the functioning of the nation's labor markets by bringing together individuals seeking employment with employers seeking workers.

Basic services include skill assessment, labor market information; consumer reports on training programs and job search and placement assistance. Individualized services include career and vocational counseling.

WIOA Title IV Rehabilitation Services Program

In Arkansas, the WIOA Title IV Rehabilitation Services Program is accomplished via two (2) distinct units, *Arkansas Rehabilitation Services* and the *Division of Services for the Blind*.

Who is served: *Arkansas Rehabilitation Services* increases opportunities for individuals with

disabilities to engage in competitive integrated employment and to live more independently.

The *Division of Services for the Blind* is dedicated to the independence of Arkansans who are blind or visually impaired.

Program description: *Arkansas Rehabilitation's* Field Services include career and technical education and training, transition from school to work or postsecondary education, on-the-job training, and ancillary support services that clients may need for successful employment. *Arkansas Rehabilitation's* Business Relations Services assist businesses in achieving a competitive advantage by offering qualified job candidates who are trained in a wide variety of skills and have the good work habits that employers value.

The *Division of Services for the Blind* provides a variety of services that are focused upon:

- a. Employment - To assist Arkansans who are blind or visually impaired to secure or maintain employment and consistent with their skills, abilities, and interests;
- b. Rehabilitation Teaching - To assist Arkansans who are blind or visually impaired to live as independently as possible through the development of skills, accommodations, or adaptations that are necessary to perform all activities of daily living; and
- c. Prevention of Blindness - To assist in preventing blindness stabilizing vision, and, where possible, restoring vision.

F. Arkansas Workforce Centers

The Arkansas Workforce Centers are the gateways to job services and workforce development programs in our state.

With 30 Arkansas Workforce Centers located strategically throughout the state, representatives are available to help employers and job seekers find the best resources and services to meet their needs.

The Arkansas Workforce Centers represent Arkansas' version of the American Job Centers. They are designed to provide universal access to an integrated array of services so that workers, job seekers, and businesses can find the services they need in one stop, and frequently under one roof.

All Arkansas Workforce Centers offer a consistent line of resources for employers and job seekers. However, the full menu of services may vary from center to center, as each site can tailor the additional services it offers to meet the specific needs of employers and job seekers in their community.

At the Arkansas Workforce Centers, customers receive services on three levels:

1. Self-service in the resource rooms
2. Intensive services and career counseling
3. Training and skill-building for those who qualify

Customers can search and apply for jobs online in the AWC resource rooms. These rooms are equipped with computer stations, Internet, printers, copiers, fax machines, phones, and

staff to assist as needed. With an Arkansas JobLink account, job seekers can search for employment opportunities, apply for jobs, and post their resume, skills, and other credentials to a profile viewable by employers.

II. SECTOR STRATEGIES AND CAREER PATHWAYS

Under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), economic development entities are partners in the workforce system. While economic development efforts are centered on recruiting new businesses and helping existing ones expand in a region, workforce development partners assist with the expansion and retention activities of existing businesses.

This entails sector strategies for training, skill upgrading, work-based learning (including apprenticeship), on-the-job training, work experience, incumbent worker training, and customized training.

Our Adult Education Local Providers have utilized local in-demand industries to develop instruction aligned with the corresponding career pathways; incorporate basic employability skills and specific workforce preparation activities; develop integrated education trainings aligned with local needs; partner with core partners' programs, such as Out of School Youth; and conduct workplace classes (on and off site) for local employers.

A. Sector Strategies and Industry Initiatives

Industry focus groups and sector initiatives (also called sector partnerships or sector strategies) are regional, employer-driven partnerships of industry leaders, education and training consortia, and other stakeholders that focus on the workforce needs of key industries in a regional labor market.

ADWS has previously released guidance and funding availability opportunities to Local Workforce Development Boards to encourage the development and implementation of sector strategies planning efforts on a regional basis. To date, these previous efforts have achieved limited successes. Therefore, ADWS is currently evaluating “best practice” models (e.g., Colorado), technical assistance resources, and various other strategies to incentivize broad-based adoption of sector strategies planning efforts on an ongoing basis across all Local Workforce Development Boards.

B. Career Pathway Strategies

ADWS, in collaboration with Arkansas Research Center, has developed a Career Pathways report to demonstrate demand within occupations based on Job Posting data (source- EMSI) to wages based on LMI. The reports are grouped by the Career Cluster and Career Pathway associated with each occupation and presented per Local Area. This information will be provided to Local Areas and updated at least annually.

C. Business Engagement Strategies

During the Program Year, Arkansas continued its efforts in expanding the services available

to the State's businesses through the Workforce Center System. These efforts included further solidifying the roles and responsibilities of Local Workforce Development Area Business Services Teams as well as engagement with WIOA core partners. Several of the LWDA's are in the early stages of their business services development, implementation and outreach efforts. ADWS has taken the lead in establishing and convening the WIOA Roundtable – Business Engagement Committee that includes representation across partner programs. This Committee has conducted a statewide business services workshop to communicate the menu of services that are offered through the various partner programs. This workshop provided attendees with an overall awareness of available programs in order to better serve clients.

Additionally, the committee members (including a broader group of WIOA core partner representatives) have been active in the development and implementation of Salesforce. Salesforce is a customer relations management tool that will assist business services teams to track and report business engagement activities across partner programs. The Salesforce system will allow business services staff to begin recording actual business engagement activity leading to improved tracking and reporting. A long-term goal for Salesforce is to integrate the sharing and usage of data within the system with economic development and other state agency partners.

Re-Employment Systems Integration

Arkansas strives to promote and support a talent development system that offers employers, individuals, and communities the opportunity to achieve and sustain economic prosperity. This project's purpose is to build on the relationship between the ADWS and its WIOA Partners in the design & development of a secure, integrated common intake & case management system that is a citizen-focused service delivery model that enhances the access to programs & services for all of our customers.

ADWS and our WIOA partners have implemented a Business Service Teams Solution in Arkansas's workforce centers, that will enable us to coordinate, manage, and record the services being provided to business' to meet the spirit of the WIOA law, to avoid multiple contacts to business by leveraging the communication tools available in Salesforce, and to establish additional data for reporting the new business metrics. The RSI grant ended December 31, 2019.

D. Work-based Learning (including Apprenticeships)

Since 2010, ADWS has been awarded over \$42 million in discretionary grants funding for workforce development training and national disaster dislocated worker grant recovery efforts. Discretionary grants provide economic support for workforce development initiatives and relief funds for temporary employment, clean-up efforts, and infrastructure repairs when natural disasters strike.

During the Program Year, efforts have been focused on building partnerships with stakeholders and employers across the state to expand and diversify registered apprenticeship programs (and the number of apprentices) in Arkansas. These efforts are making a positive impact. Arkansas has grown from a reported 4,489 active registered apprentices in 2016 to approximately 6,500 currently. This represents a 45 percent increase in the number of active registered apprentices in four years. A contributing factor to the

growth in registered apprenticeship is due in part to dedicated efforts to increase awareness among employers and workforce development partners to consider RA as a workforce development option.

As an example, ADWS has initiated a series of *Employers Growing Talent Through Apprenticeship – Employer Forums*. These *Employer Forums* (pre-COVID) were held on-site across the State in partnership with regional Local Workforce Development Boards, Chambers of Commerce, the Lieutenant Governors' Office, the USDOL Office of Apprenticeship, the Office of Skills Development and the State Office of Apprenticeship and partnering employers.

During the pandemic, the *Employer Forums* are shifting to a virtual platform targeting specific audiences and employers. RA expansion in recent years has been facilitated through the following grants: Arkansas Apprenticeship Pathways Initiative (AAPI), and Arkansas Expands Apprenticeship (AREA).

Arkansas Apprenticeship Pathways Initiative

Registered apprenticeship offers a career pathway for job seekers to learn a skill and earn good wages while earning a marketable credential from the U.S. Department of Labor. Apprentices are considered employees from day one of the program; they receive paid training and progressive increases in wage as they demonstrate skills gain.

The AAPI grant is expanding registered apprenticeship opportunities in the traditional registered apprenticeship construction trades, as well as in the non-traditional registered apprenticeship industry sectors, such as information technology and advanced manufacturing.

Collaborative work efforts under the AAPI grant has pioneered non-traditional (i.e., outside the construction trades) registered apprenticeship programs in Arkansas, introducing software developer and cybersecurity apprenticeships working with the Arkansas Center for Data Sciences and partnering employers as well as industrial maintenance, culinary, and nursing related apprenticeships. Due to the negative impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on training activities, ADWS requested and received approval from USDOL for a six-month period of performance extension. The AAPI grant is scheduled to end March 30, 2021.

Arkansas Expands Apprenticeship

The AREA grant was the last of the USDOL Apprenticeship USA Initiative Grants awarded to ADWS. This grant award is offering the opportunity to leverage funding to expand Arkansas' capacity to collaborate with employers and start new apprenticeship programs across diverse industries and communities. AREA registered apprenticeship training programs are available across all industry sectors where employer demand drives the expansion of existing programs or the development of new programs. Due to the negative impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on training activities, ADWS requested and received approval from USDOL for a six-month period of performance extension. The AREA grant is scheduled to end April 30, 2021.

III. WAIVERS

In PY2019, we sought the following WIOA Title I waivers:

1. Waiver of the obligation of eligible training providers to collect performance data on all students in a training program. WIOA Sections 116(d)(4)(A) and 122, and 20 CFR 677.230(a)(4) and (5) and 20 CFR 680.
2. Waiver to allow the State to lower the local area and statewide reserve out-of-school youth expenditure requirement to 50 percent. WIOA Section 129(a)(4) and 20 CFR 681.410 and Waiver to allow the State to calculate the out-of-school youth requirement at the State level only. WIOA Section 129(a)(4) and 20 CFR 681.410.
3. Waiver to increase on-the-job-training reimbursement up to 90 percent for businesses with 50 or fewer employees. WIOA Section 134(c) (3)(H)(i) and 20 CFR 680.720 (b).
4. Waiver to allow flexibility in the use of funds reserved by the Governor to provide disaster relief as permitted under Dislocated Worker Grants for disaster relief, including temporary work. WIOA Section 134(a)(2)(A), WIOA Section 134(a)(2)(B) and WIOA Section 134(a)(3).

IV. EVALUATIONS

In PY2019, Arkansas entered a contract with the University of Arkansas – Fayetteville to complete a workforce system evaluation. This contract went into effect on January 1, 2020 and will result in an evaluation that will employ the most rigorous analytical and statistical methods that are reasonably feasible, such as the use of control groups (20 CFR § 682.220) as appropriate.

Unfortunately, the onset of the worldwide COVID-19 pandemic in March 2020 altered our plans considerably and we are attempting to re-calibrate our previous milestones and deadlines.

We have included the details of this evaluation plan below:

- A. Local Integration Study- Sample Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Title I or Title III participants for 3 Local Workforce Development Areas. This part of the evaluation will focus on two primary areas: 1. Co-enrollment and Co-funding of REQUIRED WIOA Partners and 2. Leveraging of Local Resources available in the Local Workforce Development Area.
- B. In the Comprehensive Centers for the 3 Local Areas selected for sampling, report case studies on effectiveness of identifying and closing Skill-Gaps
- C. Review a sample of Arkansas Workforce Centers against the State's certification policy and applicable laws/regulations for four comprehensive centers and two affiliate centers. Each of the six centers selected should be in different Local Workforce Development Areas and may be selected from Local Workforce Development Areas that overlap the 3 selected above.

- D. *Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic*, we planned to conduct a statewide customer service survey for business customers of WIOA Title I and Title III receiving services over the most recent 12 months available.
- E. *Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic*, evaluation status reports were to be provided on a monthly basis on overall project goals. These reports were scheduled to be issued at the end of February, March, April, May, June, and July of 2020.
- F. *Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic*, a preliminary evaluation report was scheduled to be produced by August 15, 2020.
- G. *Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic*, a final evaluation, with results, best practices, and recommendations was to be presented to the State Workforce Development Board by September 30, 2020.

In PY 2019, Adult Education (WIOA Title II) conducted on site monitoring visits to all local providers. The monitoring visits included compliance checks, financial record keeping, data collection, recruitment/retention strategies, and partnerships. A select group of local providers had an additional intensive on-site monitoring visit that also included a review of finances, ADA compliance, and program-related policies.

V. CUSTOMER SATISFACTION APPROACH

As part of the above referenced contract with the University of Arkansas – Fayetteville, we will conduct customer satisfaction surveys with WIOA Title I and III program participant exiters as well as customer service surveys for business customers of WIOA Title I and Title III. Each of these surveys will be conducted with participants and businesses that received services during the most recent 12-month period.

The results of both surveys will be included in the final report to the Arkansas Workforce Development Board. These results will be evaluated by the Board and used to modify existing policies or develop new policies on both the state and local level. Additionally, these survey protocols will become a permanent part of the WIOA System’s ongoing evaluation efforts for all core programs.

In our WIOA Title II, each of the 36 Local Providers conducted an annual self-study that included identifying strengths, weakness, opportunities and threats to the local program. Through these studies, local programs were able to identify areas where partnerships with other agencies, employers, and training providers would be possible. State staff reviews these self-studies during annual monitoring visits.

VI. STATE’S STRATEGIC VISION AND GOALS

A. Vision and Goals

In Arkansas, the Arkansas Workforce Development Board is responsible for ensuring that the vision and goals for the state’s workforce development system are being met.

Consequently, the Board has assigned this duty to its Strategic Planning Committee. Upon its inception, the Strategic Planning Committee developed a Strategic Action Plan grid that contained the ongoing strategic goals for the State, complete with milestones and completion dates.

At each of its quarterly meetings, the Strategic Planning Committee reviews an updated Action Plan that provides a “report card” towards achieving these goals. Some of this Committee’s strategic goals and progress made towards achieving them are listed below:

Strategic Planning Committee Action Plan Results

- The development, implementation, and modification of the state workforce development plan. PY2016-2019 Completed. PY2020-2023 Ongoing.
- The review of statewide policies, of statewide programs, and of recommendations on actions that should be taken by the state to align workforce development programs in the state in a manner that supports a comprehensive and streamlined workforce development system in the state, including the review and provision of comments on the state plan, if applicable, for programs and activities of one-stop partners that are not core programs. Continuous.
- The development and continuous improvement of the workforce development system in the state, including the identification of barriers and means for removing barriers to better coordinate, align, and avoid duplication among the programs and activities carried out through the system. Continuous and Update provided at each Committee Meeting.
- The development of strategies to support the use of career pathways for the purpose of providing individuals, including low-skilled adults, youth, and individuals with barriers to employment (including individuals with disabilities), with workforce investment activities, education, and supportive services to enter or retain employment. Continuous and Update provided at each Committee Meeting.
- The development of strategies for providing effective outreach to and improved access for individuals and employers who could benefit from services provided through the workforce development system. Continuous and Update provided at each Committee Meeting.
- The development and expansion of strategies for meeting the needs of employers, workers, and jobseekers, particularly through industry or sector partnerships related to in-demand industry sectors and occupations. Continuous and updates provided at each Committee Meeting.
- The identification of regions, including planning regions, after consultation with local boards and chief elected officials. Completed.
- The development of strategies to support staff training and awareness across programs supported under the workforce development system. Continuous via bi-annual Statewide WIOA Partner Meeting;
- The development and review of statewide policies affecting the coordinated provision of services through the state’s one-stop delivery system. Initial policy manual developed, but ongoing review and identification of new policy needs ongoing.
- The development of strategies for technological improvements to facilitate access to, and improve the quality of, services and activities provided through the one-stop delivery system. Initial project approved and ongoing, with quarterly progress reports.
- Strengthen the professional development of providers and workforce professionals;

- and Ensure such technology is accessible to individuals with disabilities and individuals residing in remote areas. Ongoing.
- The development of allocation formulas for the distribution of funds for employment and training activities for adults, and youth workforce investment activities, to local areas. Approved, but reviewed annually.

B. Arkansas Labor Market

ADWS is responsible for disseminating Arkansas Labor Market Information and making it available to the general public. Arkansas LMI can be accessed online through the *Discover Arkansas* LMI Portal at: www.discover.arkansas.gov. This web portal helps job seekers make informed, data-driven career decisions and allows employers, economic developers, and researchers to promote stable employment and economic growth across Arkansas.

On Discover Arkansas, users can search by industry, wage, occupation, employment, and education, as well as browse helpful career resources and publications. The portal can be used to view current employment statistics, in-demand industries and occupations, two- and ten-year job projections, and wage information from the only wage survey done in Arkansas. Discover Arkansas is also the first place monthly unemployment rates are posted for public view.

The 2020 Arkansas Labor Market and Economic Report, released in Summer 2020, projected information for industry and occupational trends covering the years 2019 to 2021.

Arkansas increased in population in 2019 by 3,979 from 2018; and added a total of 39,397 new residents from 2015 to 2019. Of Arkansas's 10 Local Workforce Development Areas (LWDAs), Central Arkansas surprisingly experienced the largest increase in population, adding 1,458 in 2019. Previously, the Northwest Arkansas LWDA had exhibited a pattern of the most growth. However, in 2019, Northwest Arkansas joined Eastern, North Central, Southeast, and Southwest Arkansas LWDAs that experienced decreasing populations in 2019.

Between 2018 and 2019 the state's labor force increased by 11,146 and employment increased by 12,831, after experiencing small decreases in the previous year. Labor force and employment were mixed across LWDAs. The State's unemployment rate dropped to 3.5% in 2019, a drop of one and five-tenths percentage points since 2015. The unemployment rate fluctuated in 2020, ending the month of July at 7.1%. The unemployment rate fluctuated across all LWDAs in 2020 and through July 2020. The Northwest Arkansas LWDA unemployment rate fell below state levels through July 2020.

Short-term employment projections for 2019-2021 continue to see an increase in the Arkansas job market with 11,050 jobs, equivalent to a 0.92% rise in employment. Good-producing Industries are estimated to see a net gain of 2,197 jobs, down from 9,066 jobs the previous year. Services-Producing Industries are forecast to increase employment by 23,825, down from 26,480. Arkansas's self-employed ranks are estimated to experience a net gain of 1,051, an increase of 0.83%.

Jobs requiring a high school diploma or equivalent are estimated to add more jobs than any

other education level with 9,484 jobs between 2019 and 2021, down from 5,511 jobs between 2018 and 2020. Occupations requiring a Bachelor's degree are expected to grow by 6,320, down from 7,851 previously.

VII. ACTIVITIES PROVIDED BY STATEWIDE FUNDS

A. Obligations

In PY19, statewide funding was obligated towards the following activities:

- Contracting with the University of Arkansas to complete an evaluation of the Workforce System- emphasis on business services and asset mapping
- Eligible Training Provider Reporting System conversation from the Arkansas Consumer Reporting System (ACRS) to America's Job Link Association's Provider Link for purposes of ETP reporting improvement. Complete system conversion is expected by September 2021
- Regional Planning and Sector Strategies subawards to Local Workforce Development Boards
- Additional local funding to Local Areas with High Concentrations of Eligible Youth
- Ex-offender focused RV visits to Correctional Facilities
- Business-focused services including: State-funded Work Based Learning Activities, Career Readiness Certificate programs, and piloting a state administered Virtual Job Fair platform and
- Other required activities such as monitoring and technical assistance

Disaster National Dislocated Worker Grant– AR-30

(Storms occurring between May 21, 2019, and continuing)

In June of 2019, the U.S. Federal Emergency Management Agency declared storm impacted counties within the Little Rock and West Central regions as federal disaster areas. ADWS received a total award of \$1,803,765 to fund temporary employment and recovery assistance for storm debris removal and repairs. Disaster NDWG AR-30 has an end date of December 31, 2020.

Disaster National Dislocated Worker Grant– AR-31

(Severe storms, straight-line winds, tornadoes, and flooding)

In September of 2019, the U.S. Federal Emergency Management Agency declared storm impacted counties within the Northwest region as federal disaster areas. ADWS received a total award of \$467,540 to fund temporary employment and recovery assistance for storm debris removal and repairs. Disaster NDWG AR-31 has an end date of March 31, 2021.

B. WIOA Title II – Adult Education and Family Literacy Act Program

The Arkansas Division of Workforce Services - Adult Education Section provides Adult Basic Education (ABE), Adult Secondary Education (ASE), and English Second Language (ESL) services to all eligible adult education and literacy programs in Arkansas. Using the thirteen considerations, sub awardees were determined eligible for funding in the 2020-2024 Request for Proposal, as stated in "Distribution of Funds for Core Programs" using the

previously stated competitive processes.

Eligible provider's activities include reading, writing, speaking, mathematics, and English language acquisition instruction delivered by the eligible provider and are based on the best practices derived from the most rigorous research available and appropriate, including scientifically valid research and effective educational practice. In addition, adult education and literacy providers work collaboratively with other agencies to enhance services.

For example, Arkansas Rehabilitation Services use federal funding to provide services to Adult Education participants with disabilities. The Arkansas Division of Workforce Services provide funds to those individuals seeking to enter or retain employment or receive specialized training after completing basic skills acquisition through Arkansas Adult Education.

All providers receiving state and/or federal funding from the Arkansas Division of Workforce Services, Adult Education Section will be required to provide adult education and literacy services in year one, which include: English language acquisition, integrated English literacy and civics education, workplace education, workforce preparation activities or integrated education and training. Details of these activities are provided in each program's proposal.

C. WIOA Title IV – Arkansas Rehabilitation Services (ARS)

The Designated State Agency for General Vocational Rehabilitation in Arkansas is the Arkansas Division of Workforce Services - Arkansas Rehabilitation Services (ARS). Title IV of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

Similarly, the Arkansas Division of Workforce Services - Division of Services for the Blind is the designated State Agency to provide services for rehabilitation and social services to blind and severely visually impaired persons age 14 and above in Arkansas.

The Arkansas Division of Workforce Services - Arkansas Rehabilitation Services provides vocational rehabilitation services to people with disabilities. Currently, there are significant barriers for people with disabilities in relation to attaining employment. A 2008 study (StatsRRTC[1]) indicated the employment rate for people with disabilities was 33.9 percent when compared to 79.1 percent for people without disabilities.

The Arkansas State Rehabilitation Council (SRC) is a key partner with Arkansas Rehabilitation Services (ARS) in the administration of the State's Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Program. The Arkansas SRC is a citizen advisory council, appointed by the Governor, to provide guidance to ARS to help individuals with disabilities, including individuals with the most significant disabilities, to obtain, maintain and regain competitive integrated employment, promote full inclusion and integration into society, and to maximize independence and economic self-sufficiency. Its membership helps ARS to develop and operationalize the VR State Plan, develop and operationalize ARS' state goals and priorities, shape and review policy, engage in strategic planning, evaluate the effectiveness of the VR Program, analyze consumer satisfaction and provide guidance, including development and review of cooperative agreements.

D. Division of Services for the Blind (DSB)

Historically, there are significant barriers to the inclusion of people with disabilities into the overall strategy for economic development in Arkansas. ARS in partnership with the Division of Services for the Blind (DSB) are leading the charge for providing targeted training and education for people with disabilities for them to develop the skills and abilities needed to attain competitive integrated employment in Arkansas.

The DSB Director and the senior leadership of DSB provide oversight and coordination within the constraints of state and federal laws to fulfill its mission through the following goals:

- Employment - To assist Arkansans who are blind or visually impaired to secure or maintain employment and consistent with their skills, abilities, and interests.
- Rehabilitation - To assist Arkansans who are blind or visually impaired to live as independently as possible through the development of skills, accommodations, or adaptations that are necessary to perform all activities of daily living.
- Prevention of Blindness - To assist in preventing blindness stabilizing vision, and, where possible, restoring vision.
- Field Services personnel provide the local level coordination and facilitation of all general vocational rehabilitation services for individuals with blind or visual impairment issues. This includes, but is not limited to, vocational rehabilitation counseling, vocational case management, eligibility determination, individual employment plan development, transition services, and job placement.
- Business and Technology personnel help educate consumers to develop management and business ownership within the Vending Facility Program (VFP). The Vending Facility Program Services are available to eligible blind persons who are interested in and have the necessary skills to manage snack bars

Through the Governor's Executive Order 10-17, DSB coordinates with other state agencies to increase employment of Arkansans with disabilities. The order also aims to focus consumer services first toward the goal of self-sufficiency through employment.

E. Rapid Response/Layoff Aversion

The Dislocated Worker program is designed to help workers get back to work as quickly as possible and overcome barriers to employment. When individuals become dislocated workers as a result of job loss, mass layoffs, global trade dynamics, or transitions in economic sectors, the Dislocated Worker program provides services to assist them in re-entering the workforce.

One such service is Rapid Response. Rapid Response is a pro-active, business-focused, and flexible strategy designed to respond to layoffs and plant closings by quickly coordinating

services and providing immediate aid to companies and their affected workers. Our Rapid Response team works with employers and any employees to quickly maximize public and private resources to minimize disruptions associated with job loss. Rapid Response can provide customized services on-site at an affected company, accommodate any work schedules, and assist companies and workers through the painful transitions associated with job loss.

Rapid Response is conducted in partnership with the Arkansas Workforce Centers (AWCs). Rapid Response for Laid-Off Workers provides access to a comprehensive range of direct services, benefits, training opportunities, and income support. Assistance may include drafting résumés and letters of application, interview skills workshops, career counseling, job search assistance, skills upgrading, and job training. Rapid Response also provides multiple benefits to Employers including information about a variety of layoff aversion options which may be available. Rapid Response may also facilitate access to incumbent worker training programs and to skilled job seekers.

Our Dislocated Worker program manages a fleet of Mobile Workforce Centers. Each Mobile Workforce Center has full internet connectivity and is equipped with computers, printers, copiers and fax machines. All the Mobile Workforce Centers include a computer with access to Jobs Application with Speech (JAWS) software, and most mobile units are handicapped accessible. Mobile Workforce Centers may be transported to supplement local resources, as needed.

F. Promising Practices

During the program year, we identified several promising practices, which include:

- Work-Based Learning Project - WIOA Title I funded a work-based learning program via a partnership with the *Our House*. *Our House* empowers homeless and near-homeless families and individuals to succeed in the workforce, in school, and in life through hard work, wise decision-making, and active participation in the community.
- Virtual Job Fairs - Arkansas Workforce Centers began conducting Virtual Job Fairs to aid job seekers and businesses that were negatively impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- ACT Work Ready Communities (WRC) Initiative - This partnership empowered Arkansas and its counties with process, data and tools deployed in a common workforce development framework to drive economic growth by certifying counties as work ready communities when established goals are attained.
- Certified Career Development Facilitator/Career Service Provider - Adult Education experienced success in requiring local providers to have a certified Career Development Facilitator/Career Service Provider on staff in order to assist participants in developing and acting on education and career goals. This ensures that each program has staff trained to assist participants in identifying resources to overcome barriers to employment.

VIII. EFFECTIVENESS IN SERVING EMPLOYERS

WIOA implemented a pilot performance measure to determine the effectiveness in serving employers. States were requested to select two of the three DOL pilot measures and could include additional state-defined employer measures. The state of Arkansas has chosen for the pilot period to report on the following for the *Effectiveness in Serving Employer* performance indicator:

- Retention with the Same Employer
- Employer Penetration.

The first chart details the specific services provider to Employers, by service type, during the program year.

Effectiveness in Serving Employers	
Employer Services	Establishment Count Cohort Period: 7/1/2019-6/30/2020
Employer Information and Support Services	1,796
Workforce Recruitment Assistance	3,800
Engaged in Strategic Planning/Economic Development	92
Accessing Untapped Labor Pools	117
Training Services	26
Incumbent Work Training Services	0
Rapid Response/Business Downsizing Assistance	9
Planning Layoff Response	1

The chart below details the actual achieved performance for the two pilot measures, Retention with the Same Employer and Employer Penetration, during the program year.

Pilot Measures	Numerator/Denominator*	Rate Cohort Period: 7/1/2019-6/30/2020
Retention with Same Employer in the 2nd and 4th Quarters After Exit Rate	43,538/66,552	65.4%
Employer Penetration Rate	5,586/106,155	5.3%
Repeat Business Customers Rate	N/A	N/A
State Established Measure	N/A	N/A

IX. STATE'S PERFORMANCE ACCOUNTABILITY SYSTEM

A. Common Exit Policy

Arkansas has a Common Exit policy mandating common date of exit for participants across the WIOA Title I, WIOA Title III, and Trade Adjustment Assistance programs. Consistent with ETA guidance, participants enrolled or co-enrolled in one or more of the foregoing ETA programs remain as participants in all programs in which there is a common period of participation until the participant has not received a service in any Common Exit program for ninety days. After ninety days elapse without receipt of a service in any of the Common Exit programs, the participant will exit all programs, retroactive to the date of the last service received in any enrolled or co-enrolled program.

B. Performance Table Narrative

The following data tables make up the final portion of Arkansas's *WIOA Title I and Title III Annual Report*.

Additionally, in the Appendix of this report contains performance data tables for WIOA Title II and Title IV performance data tables.

As the charts indicate, Arkansas met or exceeded the 90% threshold in all performance measures in each of its' WIOA programs.

In PY19, Arkansas continued its increase emphasis upon increasing services to those participants who have been identified as having Barriers to Employment, as defined by WIOA.

Between Program Year 2018 and Program Year 2019, Arkansas the following increases:

- In the WIOA Adult Program, Low Income participants increased from 737 to 1,114.
- In the WIOA Adult Program, Single Parent participants increased from 173 to 556.
- In the WIOA Adult Program, Participants Exhausting TANF within 2 years experienced earnings increases from \$2,477.42 to \$6,412.47.
- In the WIOA Adult Program Long-term Unemployed participants experienced earnings increases from \$5,498.37 to \$5,889.50. Similarly, in the WIOA Dislocated Worker Program, Long-Term Unemployed participants experienced earnings increases from \$6,205.50 to \$7,600.00.
- In the WIOA Adult Program, Single Parent participants experience earnings increases from \$5,499.71 to \$6,207.56. Similarly, in the WIOA Dislocated Worker Program, Single Parent participants experienced earnings increases from \$5,776.25 to \$6,789.41.
- In the WIOA Dislocated Worker Program, we experienced modest increases in the number of English Language Learner, Ex-Offender and Single Parent Learner participants.
- In the WIOA Title II - Adult Education program, participants experienced percentage increases in their measurable skills gains for the Entering Educational Functioning Levels ABE Levels 1, 2,3,4 and 5 since last program year.
- In the WIOA Title II - Adult Education program, participants with these barriers to employment experienced percentage increases in their measurable skills gains: Displace Homemakers, Ex-Offenders and Youth in Foster Care.
- In the WIOA Title IV – Rehabilitation Services and Division of Services for the Blind programs,

participants experience modest increases in the Employment Q2 rates.

- In the WIOA Title IV – Rehabilitation Services and Division of Services for the Blind programs, the percentage of participants who attained measurable skills gains increased from 27.20% to 45.50%.

The actual performance tables for WIOA Titles I & III are listed on the next page.

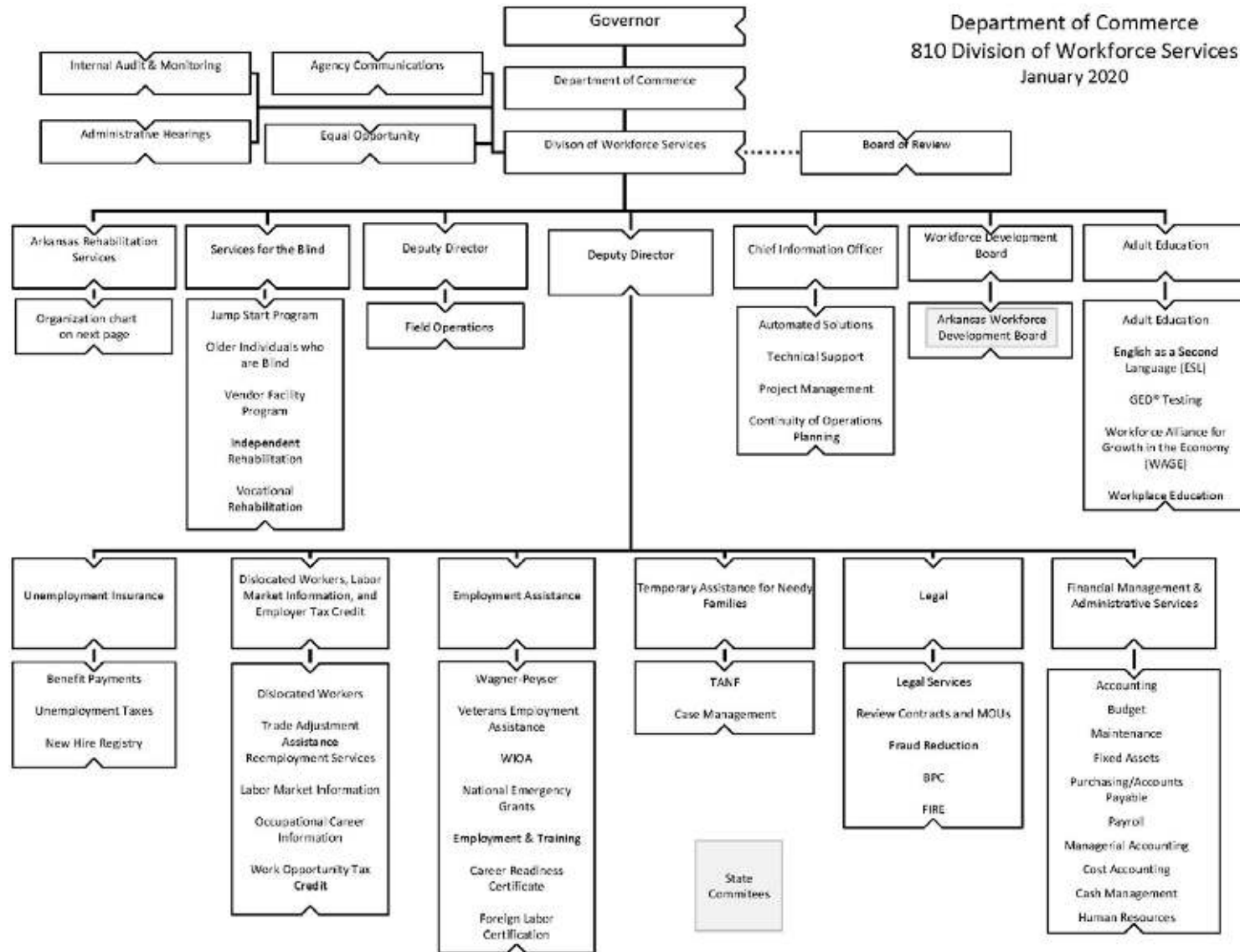
ADULTS												
	Total Participants Served (Cohort Period: 07/01/2019 - 06/30/2020)	Total Participants Exited (Cohort Period: 04/01/2019 - 03/31/2020)	Employment Rate (Q2) (Cohort Period: 07/01/2018 - 06/30/2019)		Employment Rate (Q4) (Cohort Period: 01/01/2018 - 12/31/2019)		Median Earnings (Cohort Period: 07/01/2018 - 06/30/2019)	Credential Rate (Cohort Period: 01/01/2018 - 12/31/2019)		Measurable Skill Gains (Cohort Period: 07/01/2019 - 06/30/2020)		
				Rate		Rate	Earnings		Rate		Rate	
Total Statewide	1238	874	Target		91.10%	85.80%	\$6,281.00		74.20%		NA	
			Actual	Num.	702	675		616		679		
	Denom.	826		85.00%	802	84.20%	\$6,859.00	735	83.80%	875	77.60%	

DISLOCATED WORKERS												
	Total Participants Served (Cohort Period: 07/01/2019 - 06/30/2020)	Total Participants Exited (Cohort Period: 04/01/2019 - 03/31/2020)	Employment Rate (Q2) (Cohort Period: 07/01/2018 - 06/30/2019)		Employment Rate (Q4) (Cohort Period: 01/01/2018 - 12/31/2018)		Median Earnings (Cohort Period: 07/01/2018 - 06/30/2019)	Credential Rate (Cohort Period: 01/01/2018 - 12/31/2018)		Measurable Skill Gains (Cohort Period: 07/01/2019 - 06/30/2020)		
				Rate		Rate	Earnings		Rate		Rate	
Total Statewide	320	220	Target		91.00%	85.50%	\$7,000.00		76.10%		NA	
			Actual	Numerator	191	215		165		151		
	Denominator	213		89.70%	242	88.84%	\$7,087.25	202	81.70%	209	72.25%	

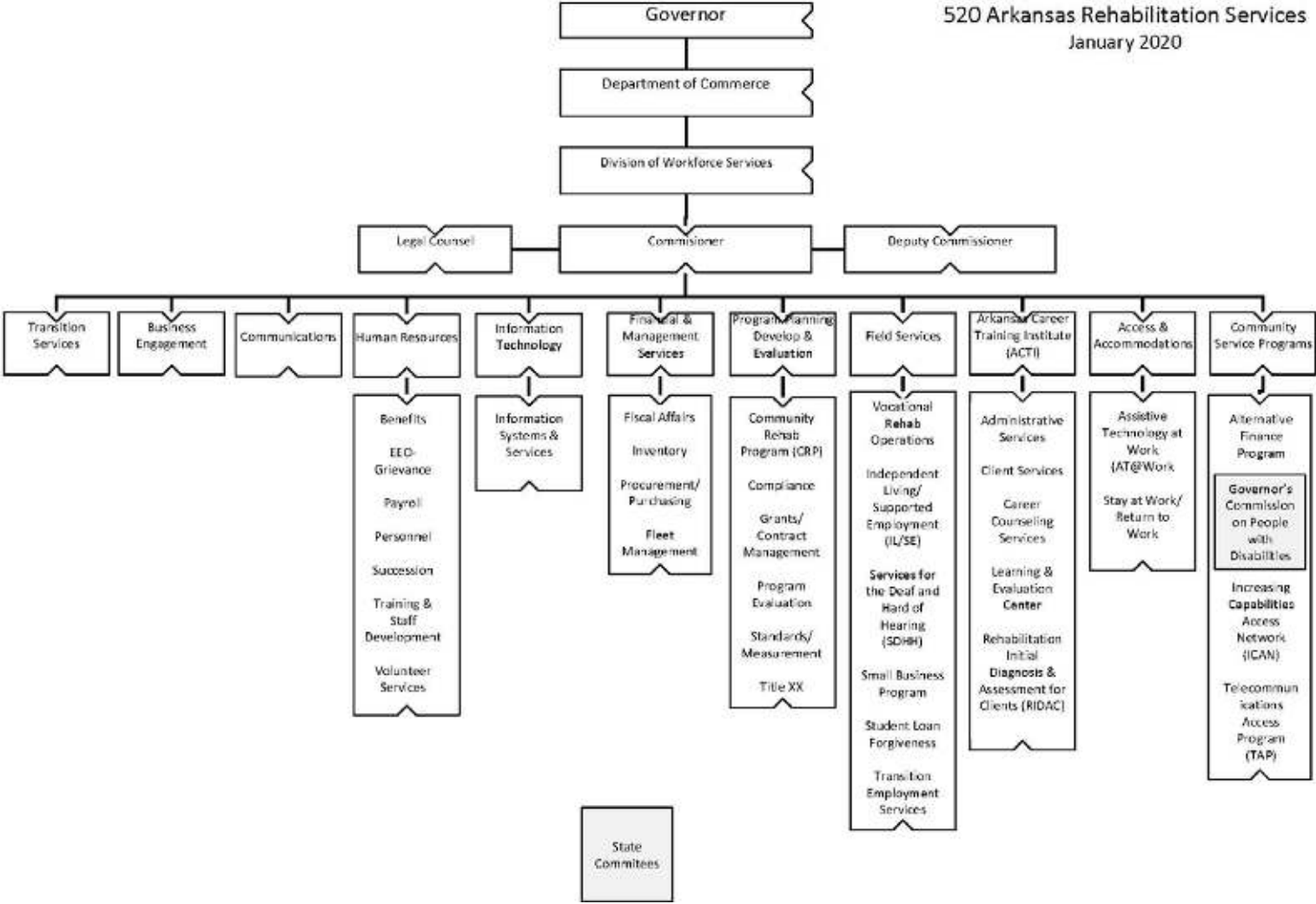
YOUTH														
	Total Participants Served (Cohort Period: 07/01/2019 - 06/30/2020)	Total Participants Exited (Cohort Period: 04/01/2019 - 03/31/2020)	Placement Rate (Q2) (Cohort Period: 07/01/2018 - 06/30/2019)		Placement Rate (Q4) (Cohort Period: 01/01/2018 - 12/31/2018)		Median Earnings (Cohort Period: 07/01/2018 - 06/30/2019)	Credential Rate (Cohort Period: 01/01/2018 - 12/31/2018)		Measurable Skill Gains (Cohort Period: 07/01/2019 - 06/30/2020)				
				Rate		Rate	Earnings		Rate		Rate			
			Total Statewide	<u>797</u>	<u>526</u>	Target			75.00%		78.10%	NA		75.00%
Actual	Numerator	<u>482</u>					<u>498</u>			<u>268</u>		<u>256</u>		62.90%
	Denominator	<u>604</u>				79.80%	<u>618</u>			80.60%		<u>\$3,220.00</u>		

WAGNER-PEYSER														
	Total Participants Served (Cohort Period: 07/01/2019 - 06/30/2020)	Total Participants Exited (Cohort Period: 04/01/2019 - 03/31/2020)	Employment Rate (Q2) (Cohort Period: 07/01/2018 - 06/30/2019)		Employment Rate (Q4) (Cohort Period: 01/01/2018 - 12/31/2018)		Median Earnings (Cohort Period: 07/01/2018 - 06/30/2019)	Credential Rate (Cohort Period: 01/01/2018 - 12/31/2018)		Measurable Skill Gains (Cohort Period: 07/01/2019 - 06/30/2020)				
				Rate		Rate	Earnings		Rate		Rate			
			Total Statewide	<u>104,791</u>	<u>105,753</u>	Target			73.40%		74.50%	\$4,750.00		NA
Actual	Numerator	<u>72,630</u>					<u>72,665</u>			NA		NA		NA
	Denominator	<u>101,511</u>				71.55%	<u>102,388</u>			70.97%		<u>\$5,388.29</u>		

X. ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



Department of Commerce
 520 Arkansas Rehabilitation Services
 January 2020



**Appendix
WIOA Title II and IV Performance
PY19-20**

XI. APPENDIX

Title II Adult Education PY19-20 Performance

2019-20 Performance

Measurable Skill Gains

Entering Educational Functioning Level	Total Number of Participants*	Percentage of Measurable Skill Gains Target	Percentage of Measurable Skill Gains Achieved
ABE Level 1	326	53%	43.40%
ABE Level 2	2,431	48%	36.60%
ABE Level 3	2,908	47%	45.90%
ABE Level 4	1,662	48%	56.60%
ABE Level 5	400	52%	56.40%
ABE Level 6	47	N/A	40.40%
ESL Level 1	1,261	36%	43.10%
ESL Level 2	633	43%	52.00%
ESL Level 3	428	50%	54.10%
ESL Level 4	238	43%	53.90%
ESL Level 5	134	43%	50.40%
ESL Level 6	26	24%	38.50%
Grand Total	10,494	47%	47.00%

**Participant in Adult Education between July 1, 2019- June 30, 2020*

**Appendix
WIOA Title II and IV Performance
PY19-20**

Measurable Skill Gains by Barriers to Employment

	Measurable Skill Gains (07/01/19 - 06/30/20)	
Displaced Homemakers	57	47.00%
English Language Learners, Low Levels of Literacy, Cultural Barriers	4,982	47.00%
Exhausting TANF within 2 years (Part A Title IV of the Social Security Act)	5	25.00%
Ex-offenders	880	48.10%
Homeless Individuals / runaway youth	104	38.00%
Long-term Unemployed (27 or more consecutive weeks)	292	46.90%
Low-Income Individuals	1,577	43.40%
Migrant and Seasonal Farmworkers	13	38.20%
Individuals with Disabilities (incl. youth)	237	39.40%
Single Parents (Incl. single pregnant women)	292	35.90%
Youth in foster care or aged out of system	19	47.50%

**Appendix
WIOA Title II and IV Performance
PY19-20**

Follow-up Measures

Primary Indicators of Performance	Number of Participants who Exited	Total POPs	Total Number of POPs Participants Achieved Outcome or Median Earnings Value for All POPs	Percentage of Participants in All POPs Achieving Outcome Target	Percentage of Participants in All POPs Achieving Outcome Achieved
Employment Second Quarter after exit* (All Exited Participants excluding Corrections)	9,879	9,967	4,241	N/A	42.55%
Employment Fourth Quarter after exit** (All Exited Participants excluding Corrections)	4,057	4,059	1,902	N/A	46.85%
Median Earnings Second Quarter after exit*	4,241	4,241	\$3,955.71	N/A	-----
Attained a Secondary School Diploma/Equivalent and Enrolled in Postsecondary Education or Training within one year of exit** (Entry at ASE)	1,662	1,663	198	N/A	11.90%
Attained a Secondary School Diploma/Equivalent and Employed within one year of exit** (Entry at ASE)	1,662	1,663	633	N/A	38.06%
Attained a Postsecondary Credential while enrolled or within one year of exit** (Dual Enrollment)	4	4	0	N/A	0.00%
Attained any credential (unduplicated)**	1,665	1,666	804	N/A	48.25%

*Exited 07/01/2018 - 06/30/2019

** Exited 01/01/2018 - 12/31/2018

**Appendix
WIOA Title II and IV Performance
PY19-20**

Follow-up Measures by Barriers to Employment

	Employment Rate (Q2) (07/01/17 - 06/30/18)		Employment Rate (Q4) (01/01/17 - 12/31/17)		Median Earnings (07/01/17 - 06/30/18)	Credential Rate (01/01/17 - 12/31/17)	
Displaced Homemakers	48	44.43%	22	46.79%	\$2,597.00	81	4.87%
English Language Learners, Low Levels of Literacy, Cultural Barriers	4,241	42.55%	1,902	46.85%	\$3,955.71	804	48.36%
Exhausting TANF within 2 years (Part A Title IV of the Social Security Act)	0	0.00%	2	40.00%	\$0.00	2	0.24%
Ex-offenders	626	45.49%	279	46.89%	\$4,208.00	123	7.40%
Homeless Individuals / runaway youth	76	44.70%	34	46.57%	\$4,575.00	15	0.90%
Long-term Unemployed (27 or more consecutive weeks)	160	47.05%	69	46.93%	\$1,640.00	36	2.16%
Low-Income Individuals	1,046	45.15%	469	46.85%	\$3,101.00	210	12.63%
Migrant and Seasonal Farmworkers	14	45.15%	6	46.14%	\$1,684.00	2	0.12%
Individuals with Disabilities (incl. youth)	168	45.15%	75	46.58%	\$2,114.00	37	2.22%
Single Parents (Incl. single pregnant women)	366	45.18%	164	46.85%	\$4,339.00	60	3.61%
Youth in foster care or aged out of system	19	44.17%	8	42.10%	\$3,191.00	5	0.30%

**Appendix
WIOA Title II and IV Performance
PY19-20**

2019-20 Table 4

Entering Educational Functioning Level	Total Number of Participants	Total Attendance Hours for all participants	Total number of POPs in which Participants achieved at least one EFL gain	Total number of POPs in which an SSD was attained	Percentage of POPs with Measurable Skill Gains
ABE Level 1	326	26,870	142	0	43.40%
ABE Level 2	2,431	190,128	887	82	39.60%
ABE Level 3	2,908	197,777	774	569	45.90%
ABE Level 4	1,662	99,895	331	661	56.60%
ABE Level 5	400	22,001	84	143	56.40%
ABE Level 6	47	3,117	7	12	40.40%
ABE Total	7,774	539,790	2,225	1,417	46.60%
ESL Level 1	1,261	88,485	547	1	43.10%
ESL Level 2	633	56,481	329	3	52.00%
ESL Level 3	428	41,658	233	2	54.10%
ESL Level 4	238	22,839	12	2	53.90%
ESL Level 5	134	13,617	67	2	50.40%
ESL Level 6	26	2,696	10	0	38.50%
ESL Total	2,720	225,777	1,315	10	48.20%
Grand Total	10,494	765,567	3,540	1,427	47.00%

**Appendix
WIOA Title II and IV Performance
PY19-20**

2019-20 Table 5

Primary Indicators of Performance	Number of Participants who Exited	Number of Participants who Exited Achieving Outcome or Median Earnings Value	Percentage of Participants Achieving Outcome	Total Periods of Participation	Total Number of Periods of Participation in which Participants Achieved Outcome or Median Earnings Value for All Periods of Participation	Percentage of Participants in All Periods of Participation Achieving Outcome
Employment Second Quarter after exit	9,879	4,241	42.92%	9,967	4,241	42.55%
Employment Fourth Quarter after exit	4,057	1,902	46.88%	4,059	1,902	46.85%
Median Earnings Second Quarter after exit	4,241	\$3,955.71	N/A	4,241	\$3,955.71	N/A
Attained a Secondary School Diploma/Equivalent and Enrolled in Postsecondary Education or Training within one year of exit	1,662	198	11.91%	1,663	198	11.90%
Attained a Secondary School Diploma/Equivalent and Employed within one year of exit	1,662	633	38.08%	1,663	633	38.06%
Attained a Postsecondary Credential while enrolled or within one year of exit	4	0	0.00%	4	0	0.00%
Attained any credential (unduplicated)	1,665	804	48.28%	1,666	804	48.25%

*Exited 07/01/2018 - 06/30/2019

** Exited 01/01/2018 - 12/31/2018

**Appendix
WIOA Title II and IV Performance
PY19-20**

Follow-up Measures for Barriers to Employment (in progress)

	Total Participants (07/01/18 - 06/30/19)	Total Participants Exited (04/01/18- 03/31/19)	Employment Rate (Q2) (07/01/17 - 06/30/18)		Employment Rate (Q4) (01/01/17 - 12/31/17)		Median Earnings (07/01/17 - 06/30/18)	Credential Rate (01/01/17 - 12/31/17)		Measurable Skill Gains (07/01/18 - 06/30/19)	
Displaced Homemakers	165	108	48	44.43%	22	46.79%	\$2,597.00	81	4.87%	65	39.39 %
English Language Learners, Low Levels of Literacy, Cultural Barriers	12,629	9,383	4,241	42.55%	1,902	46.85%	\$3,955.71	804	48.36%	6,084	48.20 %
Exhausting TANF within 2 years (Part A Title IV of the Social Security Act)	24	13	0	0.00%	2	40.00%	\$0.00	2	0.24%	6	25.00 %
Ex-offenders	1,937	1,376	626	45.49%	279	46.89%	\$4,208.00	123	7.40%	764	39.39 %
Homeless Individuals / runaway youth	238	170	76	44.70%	34	46.57%	\$4,575.00	15	0.90%	97	40.80 %
Long-term Unemployed (27 or more consecutive weeks)	572	340	160	47.05%	69	46.93%	\$1,640.00	36	2.16%	274	47.90 %
Low-Income Individuals	3,312	2,316	1,046	45.15%	469	46.85%	\$3,101.00	210	12.63%	1,568	47.30 %
Migrant and Seasonal Farmworkers	36	31	14	45.15%	6	46.14%	\$1,684.00	2	0.12%	18	50.00 %
Individuals with Disabilities (incl. youth)	589	372	168	45.15%	75	46.58%	\$2,114.00	37	2.22%	260	44.10 %
Single Parents (Incl. single pregnant women)	946	810	366	45.18%	164	46.85%	\$4,339.00	60	3.61%	403	42.60 %
Youth in foster care or aged out of system	54	43	19	44.17%	8	42.10%	\$3,191.00	5	0.30%	20	37.00 %

**Appendix
WIOA Title II and IV Performance
PY19-20**

Reporting Time Frames

Program Year 2019 (PY19) Annual Report July 1, 2019 -Jun 30, 2020

<i>Report Due Date</i>	<i>October 1, 2020</i>
Number Served (Participant)	7/01/19 to 6/30/20
Number Exited (Participant)	4/1/19 to 3/31/20
Employment Rate Second Quarter After Exit	7/01/18 to 6/30/19
Employment Rate Fourth Quarter After Exit	1/01/18 to 12/31/18
Median Earnings Second Quarter After Exit	7/01/18 to 6/30/19
Credential Attainment Rate	1/01/18 to 12/31/18
Measurable Skill Gains	7/01/19 to 6/30/20

**Appendix
WIOA Title II and IV Performance
PY19-20**

Title IV Total Performance Measures (Rehabilitation Services including Services for the Blind)

Program and Summary Information

	Career Services	Training Services
Participants Served	10,889	6,450
Participants Exited	3,478	1,841
Funds Expended	\$1,934,714	\$9,191,897
Cost Per Participant Served	\$177.88	\$1,542

Other Summary Information

Percent Admin Expended	N/A
Percent enrolled in more than one core program	0.0
Percent training-related employment	N/A

Appendix I
WIOA Title II and IV Performance
PY19-20

By Participant Characteristics Total

Statewide

Total Participants Served	12,159
Total Participants Exited	3,482

	Target	Actual
Employment (Q2) Number		2,037
Employment (Q2) Rate		57.60%
Employment (Q4) Number		1,429
Employment (Q4) Rate		39.40%
Median Earnings		\$4,835.57
Credential Number		5
Credential Rate		0.70%
Measurable Skill Gains Number		2,431
Measurable Skill Gains Rate		45.50%

By Sex

	Female	Male
Total Participants Served	6,847	5,310
Total Participants Exited	1,877	1,605
Employment (Q2) Number	1,115	921
Employment (Q2) Rate	58.0%	57.20%
Employment (Q4) Number	756	673
Employment (Q4) Rate	39.40%	39.07%
Median Earnings	\$4,620.00	\$5,168.05
Credential Number	3	2
Credential Rate	0.50%	0.40%
Measurable Skill Gains number	1,500	931
Measurable Skill Gains Rate	46.80%	43.50%

**For Consideration of the
Arkansas Workforce Development Board**

April 20, 2021

AGENDA ITEM 3 – INFORMATION: Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Roundtable Activities Report

INFORMATION/RATIONALE: In response to the heightened expectation of collaboration across the Federal programs authorized under WIOA, the core partners, represented by the Arkansas Division of Workforce Services, Division of Career and Technical Education, and Division of Services for the Blind formed the WIOA Roundtable in 2015. Since that time, this group has met as needed and at the request of the WIOA Roundtable Executive Committee who meets on a monthly basis.

WIOA Roundtable Executive Committee will provide an overview of the past year's activities and upcoming plans for the WIOA Roundtable.

ARKANSAS WIOA ROUNDTABLE

WIOA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Purpose: Oversee the implementation of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Programs in Arkansas, update and submit the WIOA State Plan and Annual Report, oversee the WIOA Roundtable subcommittees, plan WIOA Partners meetings and ensure that the state is meeting performance outcomes.

WIOA Executive Committee			
Name	Organization	E-mail	Chair
Dr. Trena Miles	Adult Ed	trena.miles@arkansas.gov	
Andy Moysh	Adult Ed	andy.moysh@arkansas.gov	
Bridget Criner	Adult Ed	Bridget.Criner@arkansas.gov	
Maurice Threet	Adult Ed	maurice.threet@arkansas.gov	
Carl Daughtery	ARS	carl.daughtery@arkansas.gov	
Christina Clausen	ARS	christina.clausen@arkansas.gov	
Christy Lamas	ARS	christy.lamas@arkansas.gov	
Gaye Jones-Washington	ARS	Gaye.Jones-Washington@arkansas.gov	
Joseph Baxter	ARS	joseph.baxter@arkansas.gov	
Rodney Chandler	ARS	rodney.chandler@arkansas.gov	
Jonathan Bibb	ARS/ACDC	jonathan.bibb@arkansas.gov	
Kelley Jackson	DHS/SNAP E&T	Kelley.Jackson@dhs.arkansas.gov	
Kristi Putnam	DHS/SNAP E&T	kristi.putnam@dhs.arkansas.gov	
Nell Smith	DHS/Medicaid	Nell.M.Smith@dhs.arkansas.gov	
Betsy Barnes	DSB	Betsy.Barnes@arkansas.gov	
Dr. Cassandra Williams	DSB	Cassandra.Williams@arkansas.gov	
Megan Lamb	DSB	Megan.Lamb@arkansas.gov	
Beverly Lovett	DWS	beverly.lovett@arkansas.gov	
Eddie Thomas	DWS	eddie.thomas@arkansas.gov	
Elroy Willoughby	DWS	Elroy.Willoughby@arkansas.gov	
Jay Bassett	TAA	Jay.Bassett@arkansas.gov	
Derwin Taylor	TANF	Derwin.Taylor@arkansas.gov	
Phil Harris	TANF	Phil.Harris@arkansas.gov	
Kesha Rogers	UI	Kesha.Rogers@arkansas.gov	
Stephanie Robinson	VET	Stephanie.V.Robinson@arkansas.gov	

ARKANSAS WIOA ROUNDTABLE

TRANSITION/OUT OF SCHOOL YOUTH COMMITTEE

Purpose: Emphasizes the provision of services to students and youth with disabilities to ensure they have opportunities to receive the training and other services necessary to achieve integrated employment. This committee works collaboratively with other core programs to ensure the successful transition of students and youth with disabilities to postsecondary education and employment statewide.

Transition/Out of School Youth Committee			
Name	Organization	E-mail	Chair
Nicole Gray	Adult Ed	Nicole.Gray@arkansas.gov	Co-Chair
Wendy Bryant	Adult Ed-AALRC	wendy@aalrc.org	
Christina Clausen	ARS	Christina.clausen@arkansas.gov	Chair
Cynthia Bullard	ARS	cynthia.bullard@arkansas.gov	
Judy Smith	ARS	judy.smith@arkansas.gov	
LaTasha Mays	DSB	LaTasha.Mays@arkansas.gov	
Megan Lamb	DSB	Megan.Lamb@arkansas.gov	
Stephanie Blair	DWS	stephanie.blair@arkansas.gov	

STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT COMMITTEE

Purpose: Designed to include an analyses of the State's economic conditions, workforce characteristics, and workforce development activities. Review local workforce development board plans and ensure alignment with the state, but reflective of the economic conditions in each region.

Strategic Alignment Committee			
Name	Organization	E-mail	Chair
Andy Moysh	Adult Ed	andy.moysh@arkansas.gov	
Bridget Criner	Adult Ed	bridget.criner@arkansas.gov	
Charles Lyford	ARS	Charles.Lyford@arkansas.gov	
Christy Lamas	ARS	Christy.Lamas@arkansas.gov	
Lisa Kelley	ARS	lisa.kelley@arkansas.gov	
Jonathan Bibb	ARS/ACDC	jonathan.bibb@arkansas.gov	Chair
Betsy Barnes	DSB	betsy.barnes@arkansas.gov	
Cassandra Williams	DSB	Cassandra.Williams@arkansas.gov	
Megan Lamb	DSB	Megan.Lamb@arkansas.gov	
EA Director	DWS	TBD	
Elroy Willoughby	DWS	Elroy.Willoughby@arkansas.gov	Co-Chair
Jay Bassett	DWS	Jay.Bassett@arkansas.gov	
Jo Keegan	DWS	Jo.Keegan@arkansas.gov	

ARKANSAS WIOA ROUNDTABLE

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

Purpose: The purpose of this group is to identify current data tracking and electronic case management services. Identify opportunities within the current structures to allow for integrated service under WIOA. Ultimately, this will serve as a foundation for a unified case management architecture that best serves the workforce needs of the state and facilitates calculation and reporting of accountability measures.

Information Technology Committee			
Name	Organization	E-mail	Chair
Andy Moysh	Adult ED	Andy.Moysh@arkansas.gov	
Bridget Criner	Adult ED	Bridget.Criner@arkansas.gov	
Jon Lee	Adult ED	Jon.Lee@arkansas.gov	
Maurice Threet	Adult ED	maurice.threet@arkansas.gov	Chair
Deandriea Bass-C	ARS	Deandriea.bass-carrigan@arkansas.gov	
Gaye Jones-Wash	ARS	Gaye.Jones-Washington@arkansas.gov	
Kristen Sutterfiel	ARS	Kristen.sutterfield@arkansas.gov	
Otis Dixon	ARS	Otis.Dixon@arkansas.gov	
Rhonda Young	ARS	Rhonda.Young@arkansas.gov	
Kristin Putnam	DHS	kristi.putnam@dhs.arkansas.gov	
Robert McGough	DIS	Robert.McGough@arkansas.gov	
Robert McGough	DIS	Robert.McGough@arkansas.gov	
Crystal Anderson	DSB	Crystal.Anderson@dhs.arkansas.gov	
Dr. Cassandra Wil	DSB	Cassandra.Williams@dhs.arkansas.gov	
Megan Lamb	DSB	megan.lamb@dhs.arkansas.gov	
Kris Jones	DWS	Kris.Jones@arkansas.gov	
Maurice Porchia	DWS	Maurice.Porchia@arkansas.gov	Co-Chair
Phil Harris	DWS	Phil.Harris@arkansas.gov	
Sandy Monaco	DWS	sandy.monaco@arkansas.gov	

ARKANSAS WIOA ROUNDTABLE

BUSINESS ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Purpose: Facilitate the understanding and alignment of partner employer services and coordinate training opportunities for business services representatives and staff.

Business Engagement Committee			
Name	Organization	E-mail	Chair
LaJuana Delph	Adult Ed	lajuana.delph@arkansas.gov	Co-Chair
Todd Hunter	Adult Ed	William.Hunter@arkansas.gov	
Nathan Winter	ARS	Nathan.Winter@arkansas.gov	
Rodney Chandler	ARS	Rodney.Chandler@arkansas.gov	Chair
Megan Lamb	DSB	Megan.Lamb@arkansas.gov	
Stephen Partridge	DSB	Stephen.Partridge@arkansas.gov	
Business Outreach	DWS	TBD	
Mark McManus	OSD	Mark.McManus@arkansas.gov	

AD HOC/FINANCE COMMITTEE

Purpose: This committee will explore the changes in WIOA that will allow for braided funding opportunities to best serve the people and businesses in Arkansas. They will also provide the context and restrictions as to how WIOA funding may be used from each agency in support of the Unified State Plan and other joint programs administered under the Act.

Ad Hoc/Finance Committee			
Name	Organization	E-mail	Chair
Dr. Trena Miles	Adult Ed	trena.miles@arkansas.gov	
Lorna Claudio	Adult Ed	Maria.Claudio@arkansas.gov	
James McCune	ARS	James.McCune@arkansas.gov	
Betsy Barnes	DSB	Betsy.Barnes@arkansas.gov	
Dr. Cassandra Williams-Stokes	DSB	Cassandra.Williams@arkansas.gov	
Kris Jones	DWS	Kris.Jones@arkansas.gov	

**For Consideration of the
Arkansas Workforce Development Board**

April 20, 2021

AGENDA ITEM 4 – INFORMATION: 2021 Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Partners Meeting Update

INFORMATION/RATIONALE: In response to the heightened expectation of collaboration across the Federal programs authorized under WIOA, the core partners have conducted statewide WIOA Partners Meetings that provide valuable information to all of Arkansas' Workforce System Partners and Stakeholders.

The most recent WIOA Partners Meeting was conducted on April 8-9, 2021. Staff will provide an update regarding this meeting.



WORKFORCE INNOVATION AND OPPORTUNITY ACT

WIOA PARTNERS' MEETING



PARTNERS FOR A BETTER WORKFORCE

April 8-April 9, 2021

Proud partner of the  network

ARKANSAS WIOA PARTNERS' MEETING

AGENDA DAY ONE
THURSDAY, APRIL 8, 2021

9:00 AM—9:10 AM	Opening Remarks	Dr. Charisse Childers Director, Arkansas Division of Workforce (ADWS) Services
9:10 AM—9:45 AM	Overview of the Programs Under WIOA	Bridget Criner Associate Director, Adult Education Section, ADWS
9:45 AM—9:55AM	Q & A Session	Elroy Willoughby Employment Assistance Unit – Operations Chief, ADWS Dr. Megan Lamb Rehab Program Manager, Division of Services for the Blind, ADWS
9:55 AM—10:30 AM	Performance Measure Data Collection and Analysis Across WIOA Partners	Joe Baxter Commissioner, Arkansas Rehabilitation Services, ADWS
10:30 AM—10:40 AM	Q & A Session	Christy Lamas Deputy Commissioner, Arkansas Rehabilitation Services, ADWS
10:40 AM—11:15 AM	PANEL DISCUSSION: UI Program Overview and Working Towards Reemployment in the Workforce System	Jay Bassett Assistant Director, Grants Resource Administration, ADWS
11:15 AM—11:25 AM	Q & A Session	Panel Members: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kristen Rhodes-Berry Program Administrator, ADWS • Regina Moss Program Operations Manager, ADWS • Christie Satterwhite Program Operations Manager, ADWS • Carol McDearmon Program Operations Manager, ADWS
11:25 AM—12:00 PM	ARHOME Discussion	Nell Smith Assistant Director, Population Health, for the Division of Medical Services Dennis Smith Senior Advisor, Medicaid and Health Care Reform, ADHS

AGENDA DAY TWO
Friday, APRIL 9, 2021

9:00 AM—9:10 AM	Opening Remarks	Secretary Mike Preston Cabinet Secretary of the Department of Commerce
9:10 AM—9:45 AM	Connecting Social Services Programs with the Workforce System and How Do They Assist Unemployed Arkansans	Phil Harris Assistant Director, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), ADWS
9:45 AM—9:55AM	Q & A Session	Panel Members: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wanda C. Merritt Director of U.S. Department of HUD Little Rock Field Office • Larry Crutchfield Assistant Director of DHS-Office of Planning and Policy Development • Tonya Williams Director of DHS Division of Child Care & Early Childhood Education
9:55 AM—10:30 AM	Meeting the Needs of Employers During the COVID Recovery	Mark McManus Apprenticeship Expansion Coordinator, Office of Skills Development
10:30 AM—10:40 AM	Q & A Session	Cody Waits Director, Office of Skills Development Jon Sherman Senior Human Resources Manager, Pace Industries
10:40 AM—11:15 AM	Eligible Training Provider List (ETPL) and AJL ProviderLink Overview	Kris Jones Assistant Director, Office of Financial Management, ADWS
11:15 AM—11:25 AM	Q & A Session	Beverly Lovett Assistant Deputy Director of Employment Assistance, ADWS Stephanie Blair Program Operations Manager, Employment Assistance, ADWS Dr. Claudia Griffin Policy Specialist, Employment Assistance, ADWS
11:25 AM—12:00 PM	Closing Remarks	Dr. Trenia Miles Director, Adult Education Section, ADWS Kris Jones Assistant Director, Office of Financial Management, ADWS



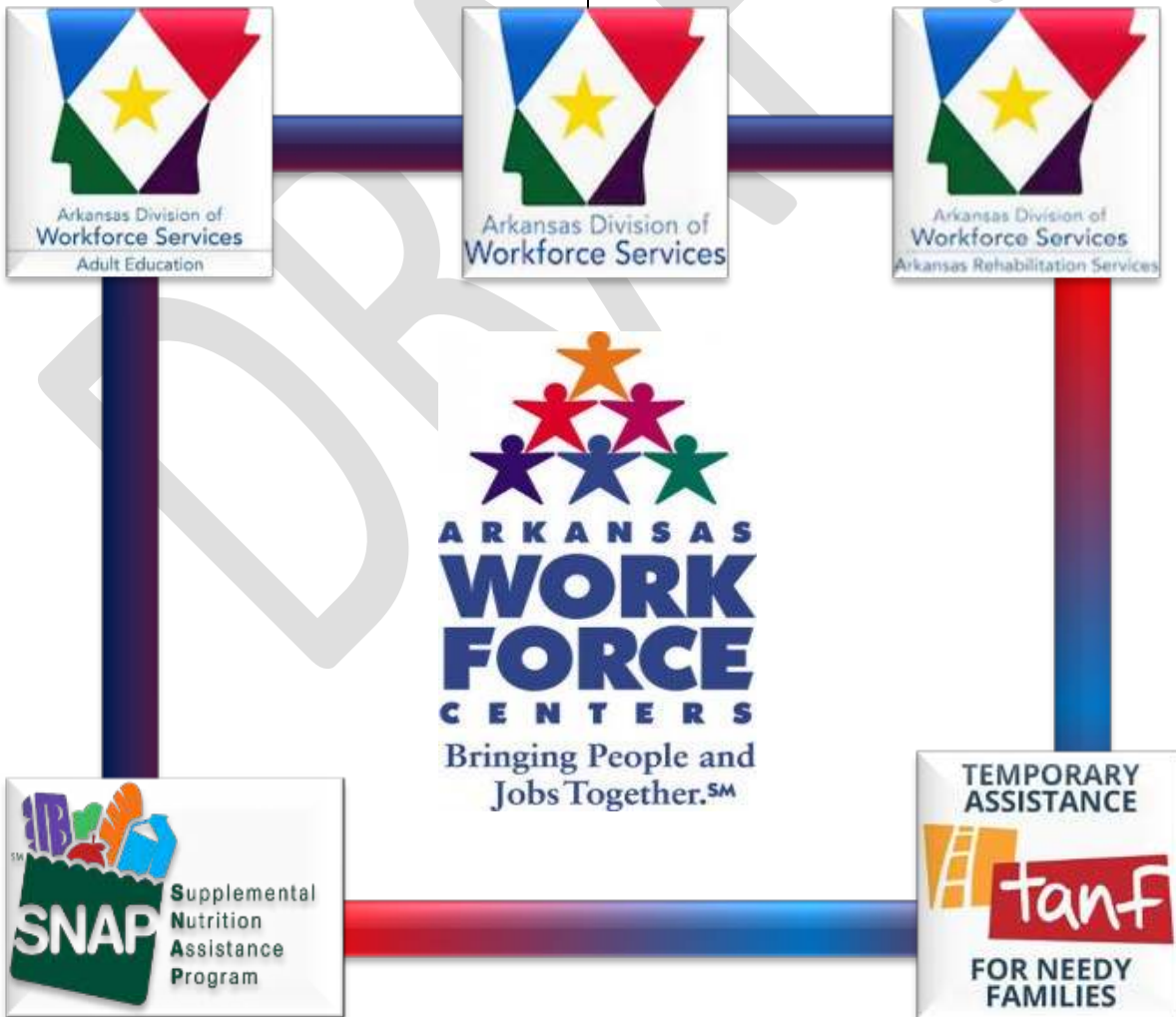
ARKANSAS WIOA COMBINED STATE PLAN PARTNERS

WIOA Six Required Programs:

- Adult program (Title I of WIOA)
- Dislocated Worker program (Title I)
- Youth program (Title I)
- Adult Education and Family Literacy Act program (Title II)
- Wagner-Peyser Act program (Title III)
- Vocational Rehabilitation program (Title IV)

Partner Programs:

- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Program
- Employment and Training Programs under the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
- Trade Adjustment Assistance for Workers Programs
- Jobs for Veterans State Grants Program
- Unemployment Insurance Programs



**For Consideration of the
Arkansas Workforce Development Board**

April 20, 2021

AGENDA ITEM 5 – INFORMATION: Unemployment Claims Resource Planning Dashboard

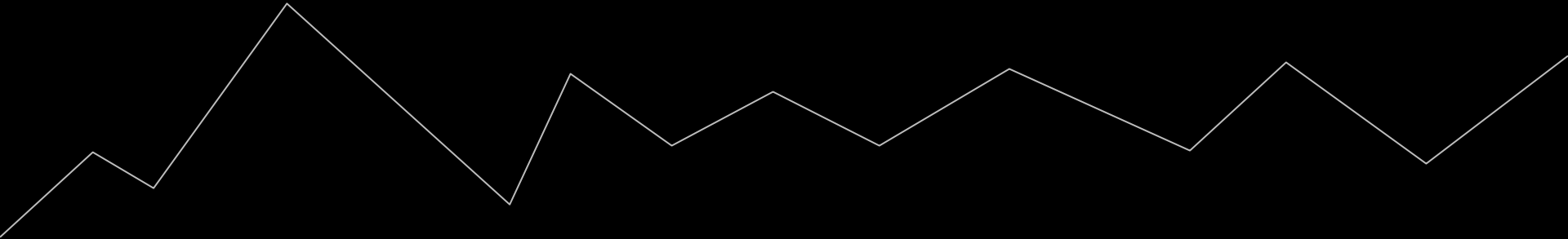
INFORMATION/RATIONALE: The Department of Transformation & Shared Services – Division of Information Systems and the Division of Workforce Services embarked upon a joint effort to develop a database of information related to Unemployment Insurance (UI) Program claims.

Mr. Robert McGough, Deputy State Chief Data Officer will provide an update regarding this project.



Alabama/Arkansas

Unemployment Claims Resource Planning Dashboard
DOL ETA Applied Data Analytics Project
Final Presentation



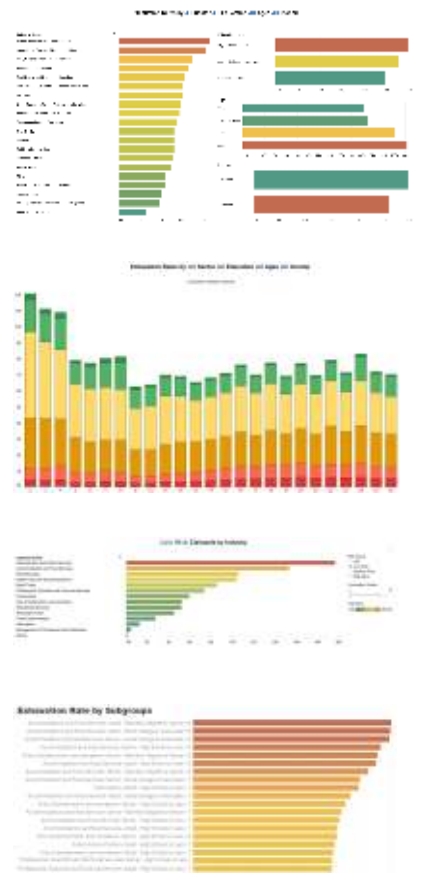
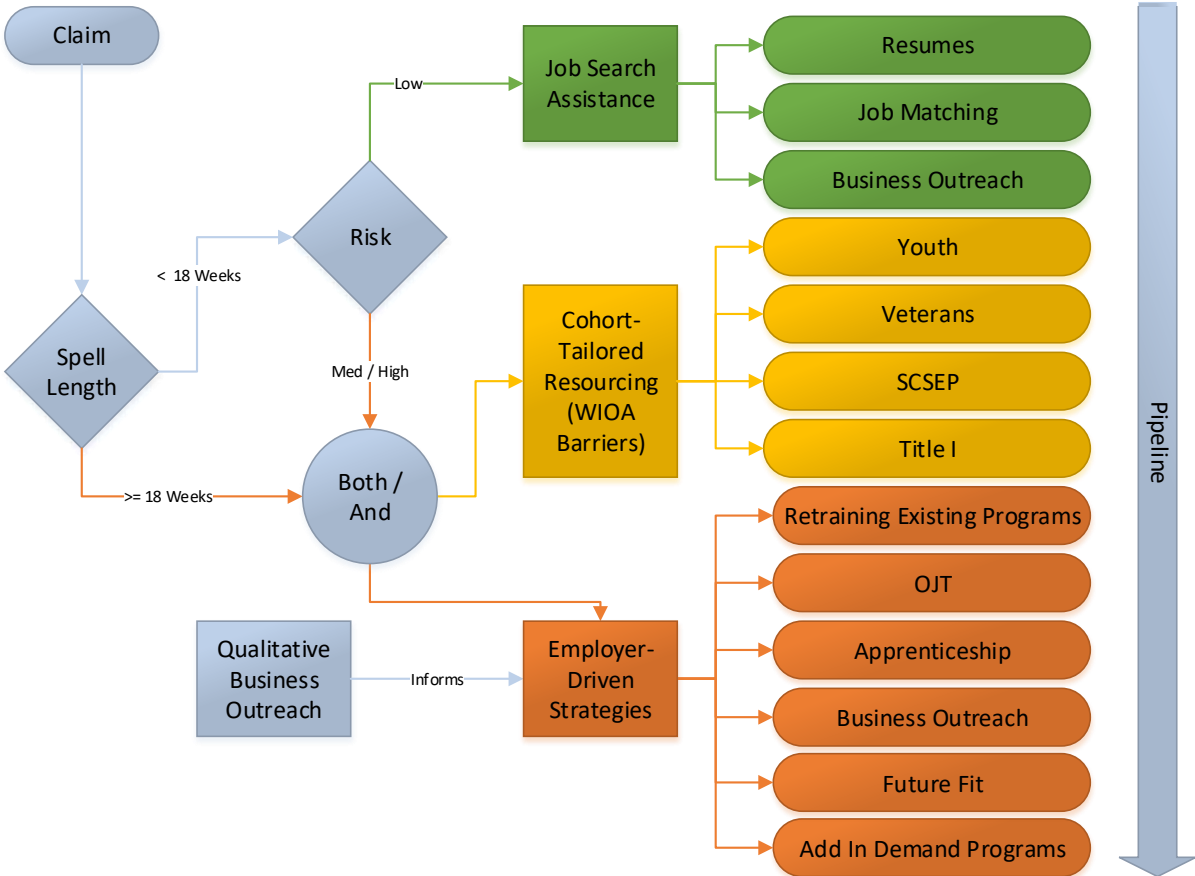
The Goal

Inform workforce boards for timely and effective allocation of limited resources in a dynamic environment.

The Proposed Solution

- UI Strategy Context
 - Informed by WIOA barriers and workforce board strategies and resources
- Longitudinal Metrics Relative to Claimant Benefit Year
 - For additional context on claimant population
 - For informing risk of exhaustion

Resource Planning Strategy

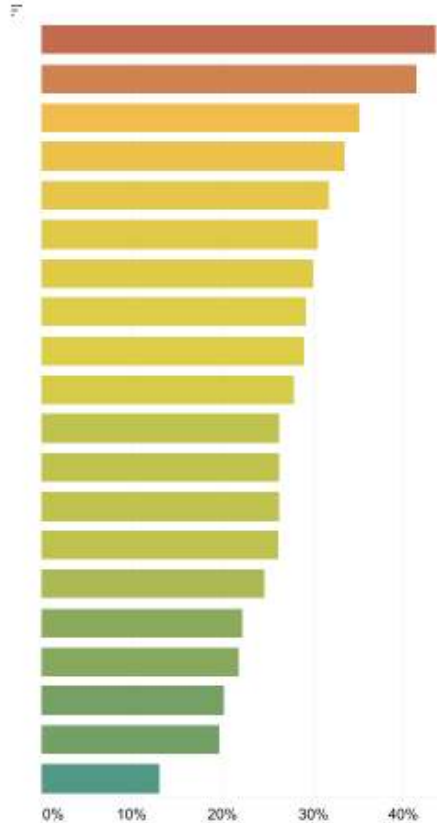


Exhaustion Rates As Indicator of Risks

Exhaustion Rates by **All Sector** **All Education** **All Ages** **All Income**

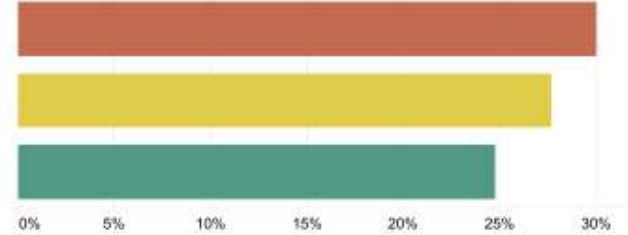
Industry Sector

Accommodation and Food Services
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, and Hunting
Arts, Entertainment, and recreation
Finance and Insurance
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing
Professional, Scientific and Technical Services
Information
Other Services (Except Public Administration)
Administrative and Waste Services
Transportation and Warehousing
Construction
Unknown
Public Administration
Wholesale Trade
Retail Trade
Mining
Health Care and Social Assistance
Manufacturing
Management of Companies and Enterprises
Educational Services



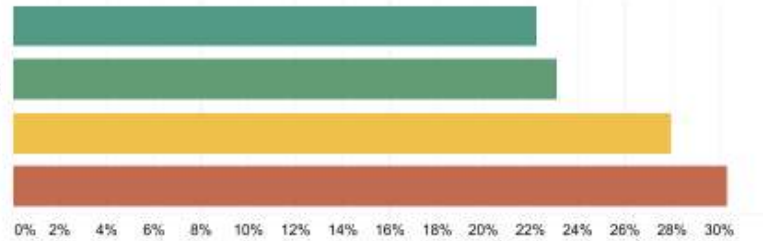
Education Level

High School or Less
Some College or Associate
Bachelor or Above



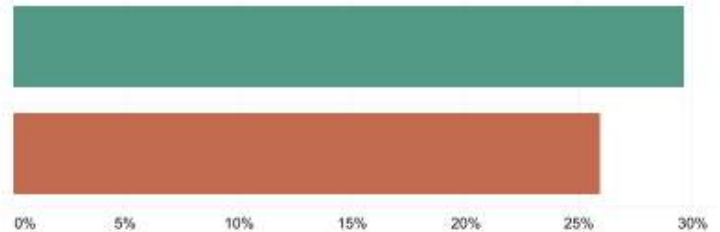
Age

Youth
Youth or Adult
Adult
Senior



Income

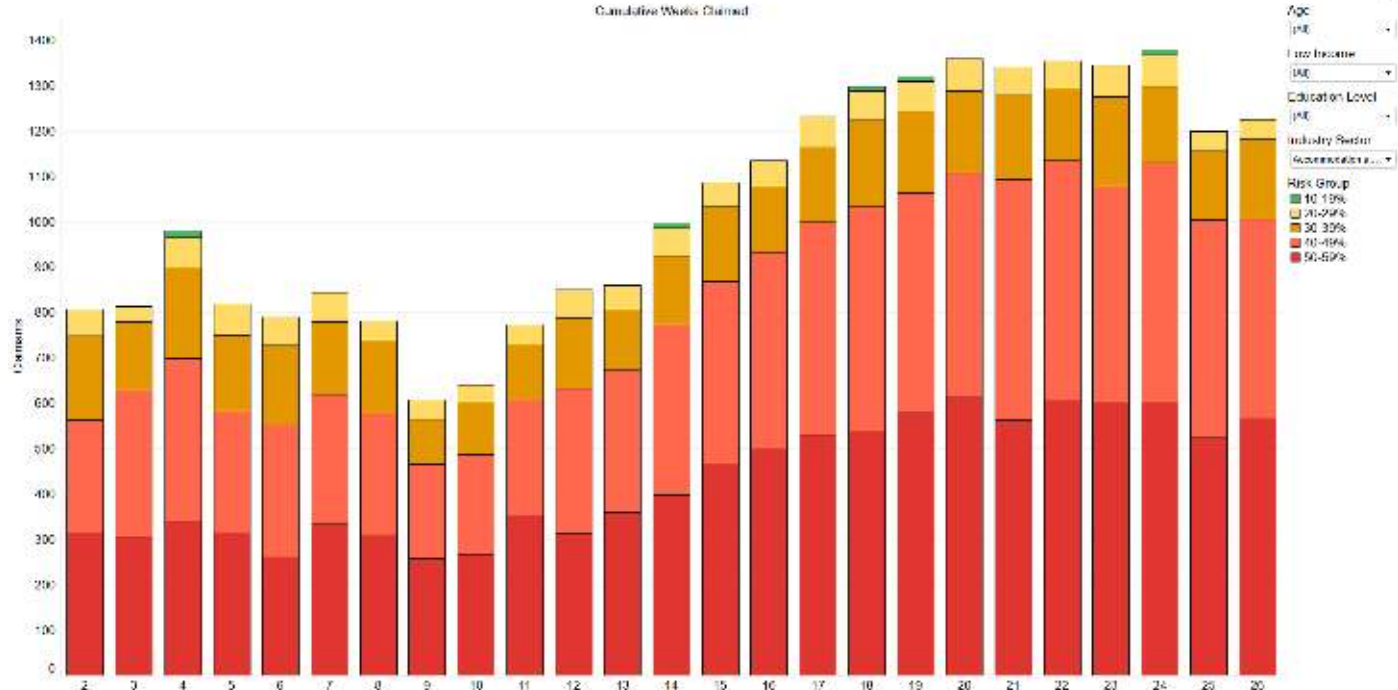
> \$22,000
< \$22,000



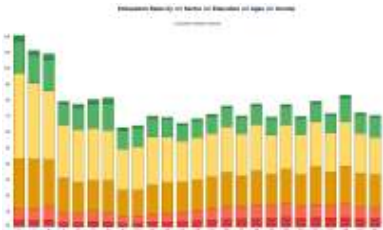
Active Claimant Dashboard

- Looking at active claims per cumulative claims within the Accommodations Industry, we see the bulk of claimants are long-term with growing bands of high-risk

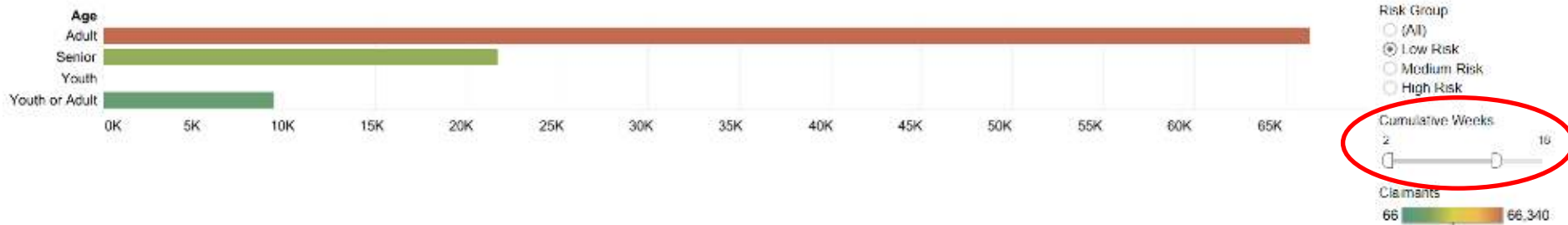
Exhaustion Rates by **Accommodation and Food Services Sector** All Education All Ages All Income



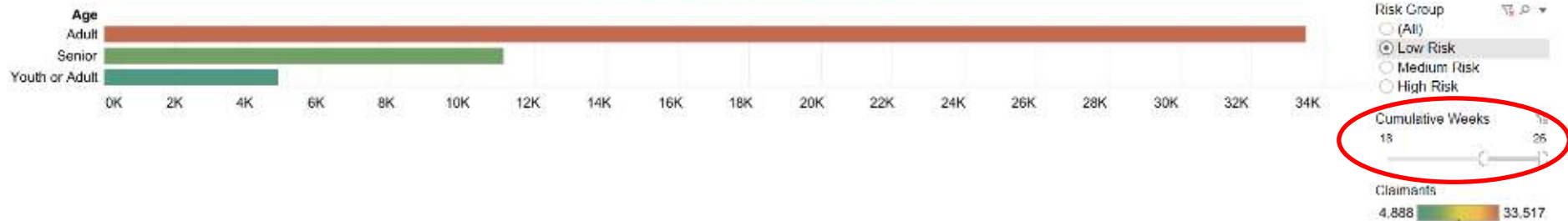
Typical All Sector
All Sub-Group Trend



Risk by Age Groups and Weeks

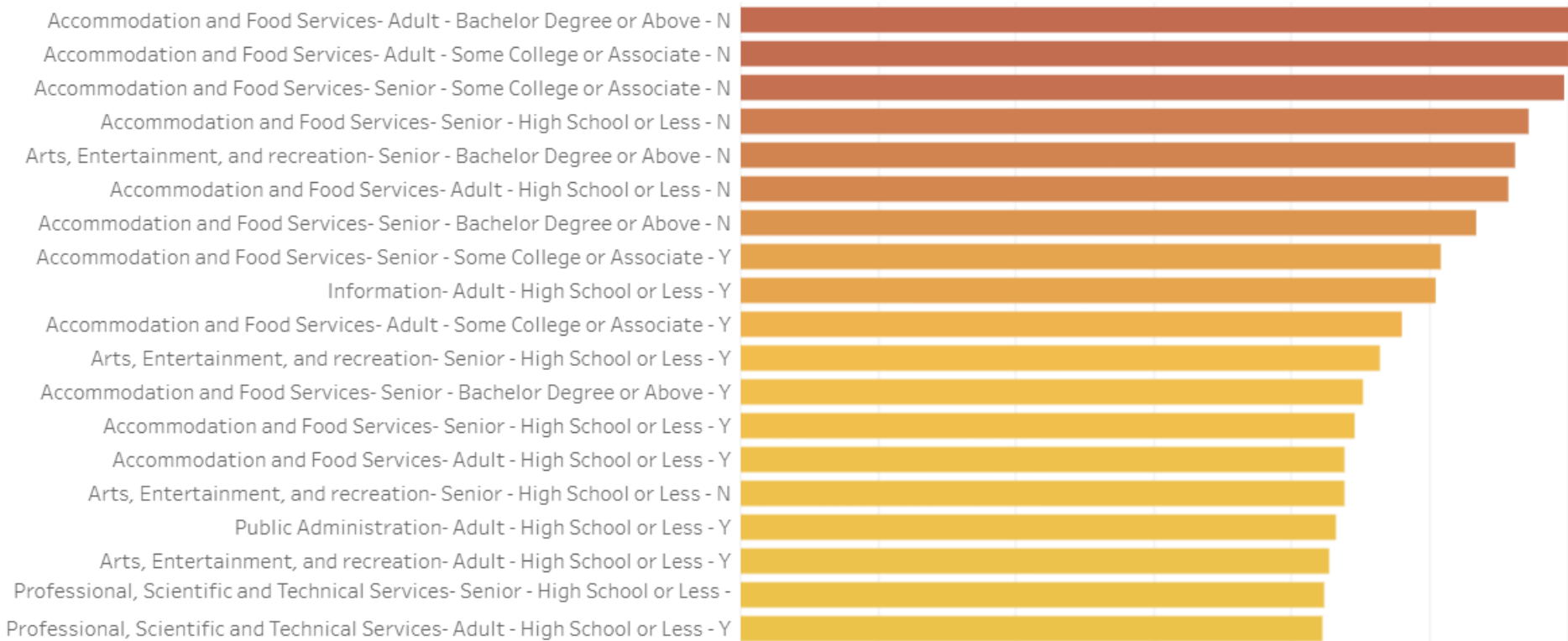


Low Risk Claimants by Age Group



Risk by Subgroup

Exhaustion Rate by Subgroups



Informed Strategic Planning

- Strategy
 - Engage industries with low exhaustion rates- Manufacturing and Healthcare to determine their immediate needs
 - Adult and Dislocated Worker programs work with the business service teams to develop solutions
 - The most at risk are Highschool level or lower-possible Adult Education, Adult, and Dislocated Worker partnership focused on outreach and training programs
 - Some potential to add SCSEP as a partner
 - Youth appear to be lower risk of exhaustion and should be analyzed with a shorter intervention window
 - Risk subgroups identify next rounds of risk analysis

Next Steps

- Additional research or validations that we identified but did not include in the project scope
- Longitudinal and multi-dimensional risk scoring combined with machine learning to improve accuracy
 - Ability to watch risk bands move into strategic intervention window
- Demand analysis to improve business outreach strategies-
 - Changes in job posting data to inform current changes in LMI Projections
- Include asset mapping for non-profits and Federal programs that focus on specific subgroups
- Additional view to support co-enrollment strategies
 - Matrix of potential partners for each risk subgroup
- Add underserved population indicators
- Add geographic risk

Appendices

Literature Review

Duration of nonemployment spell is strongly associated with earning losses

Fallick, Bruce, John Haltiwanger, Erika McEntarfer, and Matthew Staiger. 2019. "Job-to-Job Flows and the Consequences of Job Separations." Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland, Working Paper no. 19-27. <https://doi.org/10.26509/frbc-wp-201927>.

Exhausters appear to be more likely to leave the labor force

Luojia Hu, and Shani Schechter. 2011. "How Much of the Decline in Unemployment is Due to the Exhaustion of Unemployment Benefits." Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago, Chicago Fed Letter no.. 288. <https://www.chicagofed.org/publications/chicago-fed-letter/2011/july-288>.

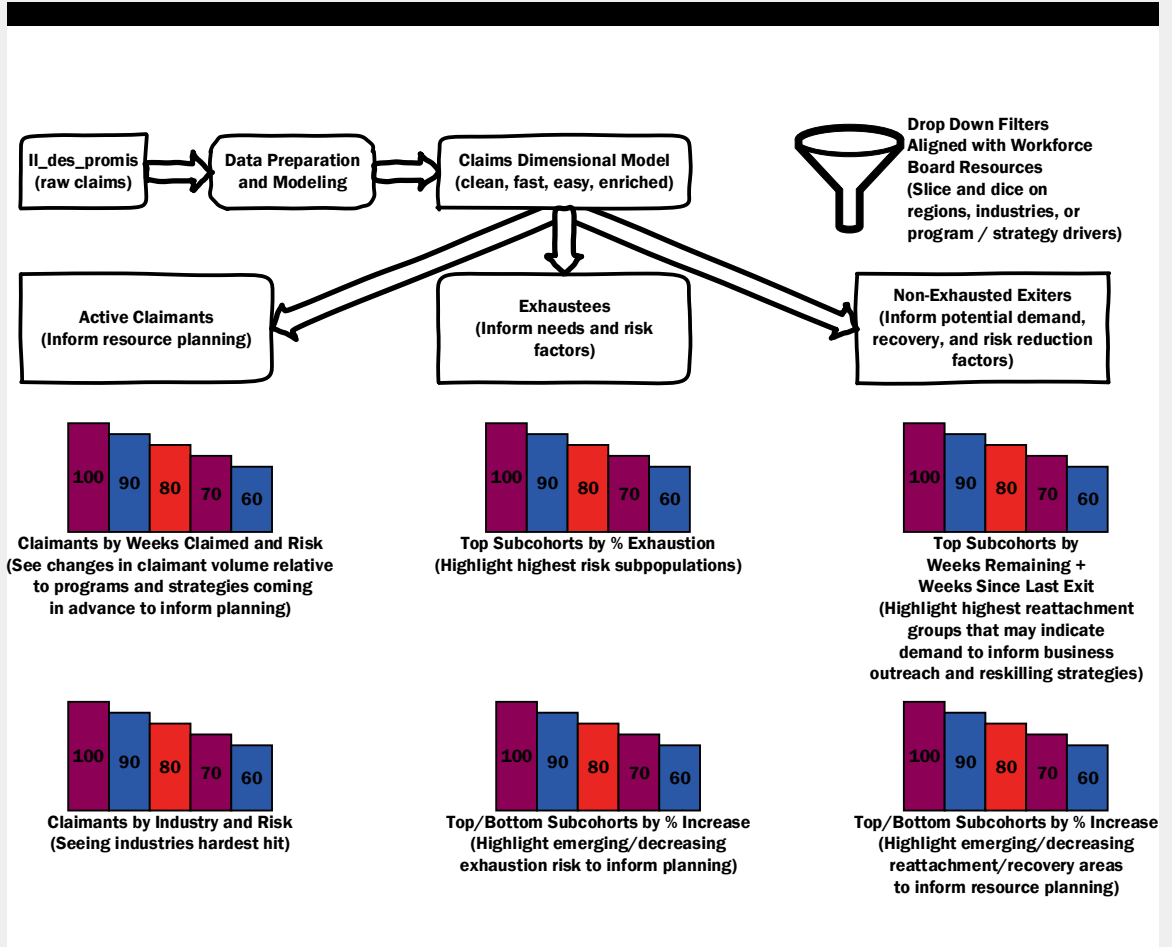
Many individuals leave the unemployment system when their benefits expire without returning to work

David Card, Raj Chetty, and Andrea Weber. 2007. "The Spike at Benefit Exhaustion: Leaving the Unemployment System or Starting a New Job?". The American Economic Review. 97(2):113-118.

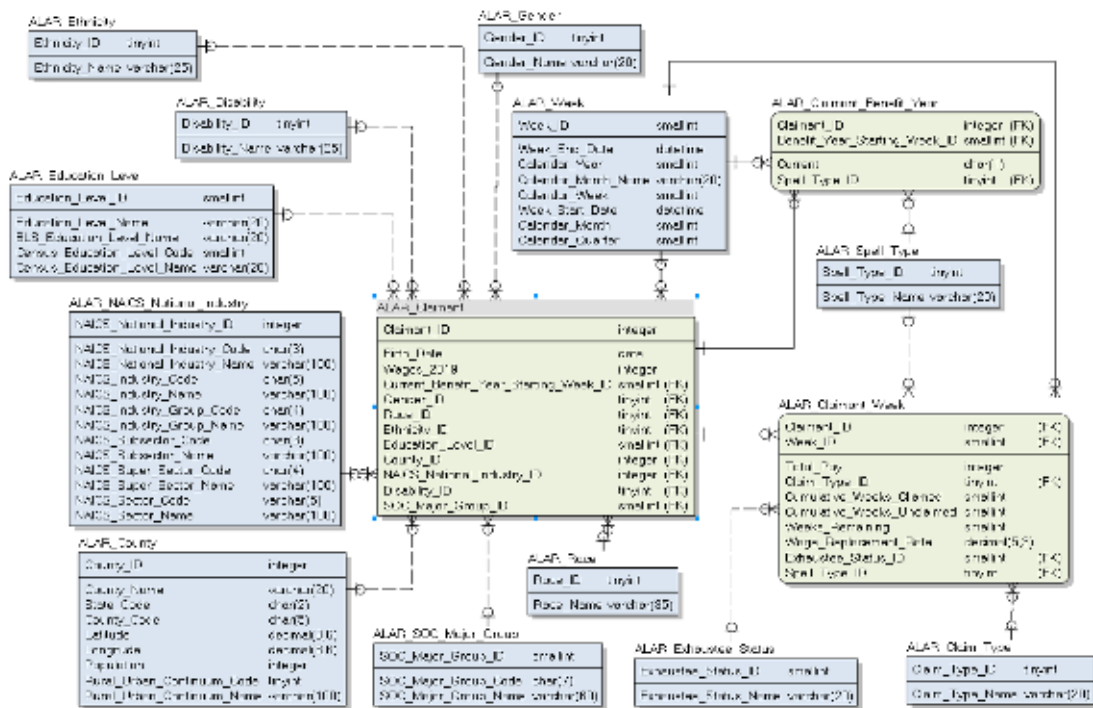
Workforce Board Survey

- Surveyed Arkansas Workforce Boards for Needs
- Agreed that:
 - Comparing existing workforce experience to more current demand projections would be beneficial
 - Analyzing the work history and demographics of the most vulnerable cohort would be helpful in resource planning
 - Analyzing both together would help establish local pipelines, business outreach strategies, and resource planning
- Added
 - The importance of realtime skills gaps analysis
 - Metro/city level data
 - Mapping of local programs and services to push the analysis towards additional resources

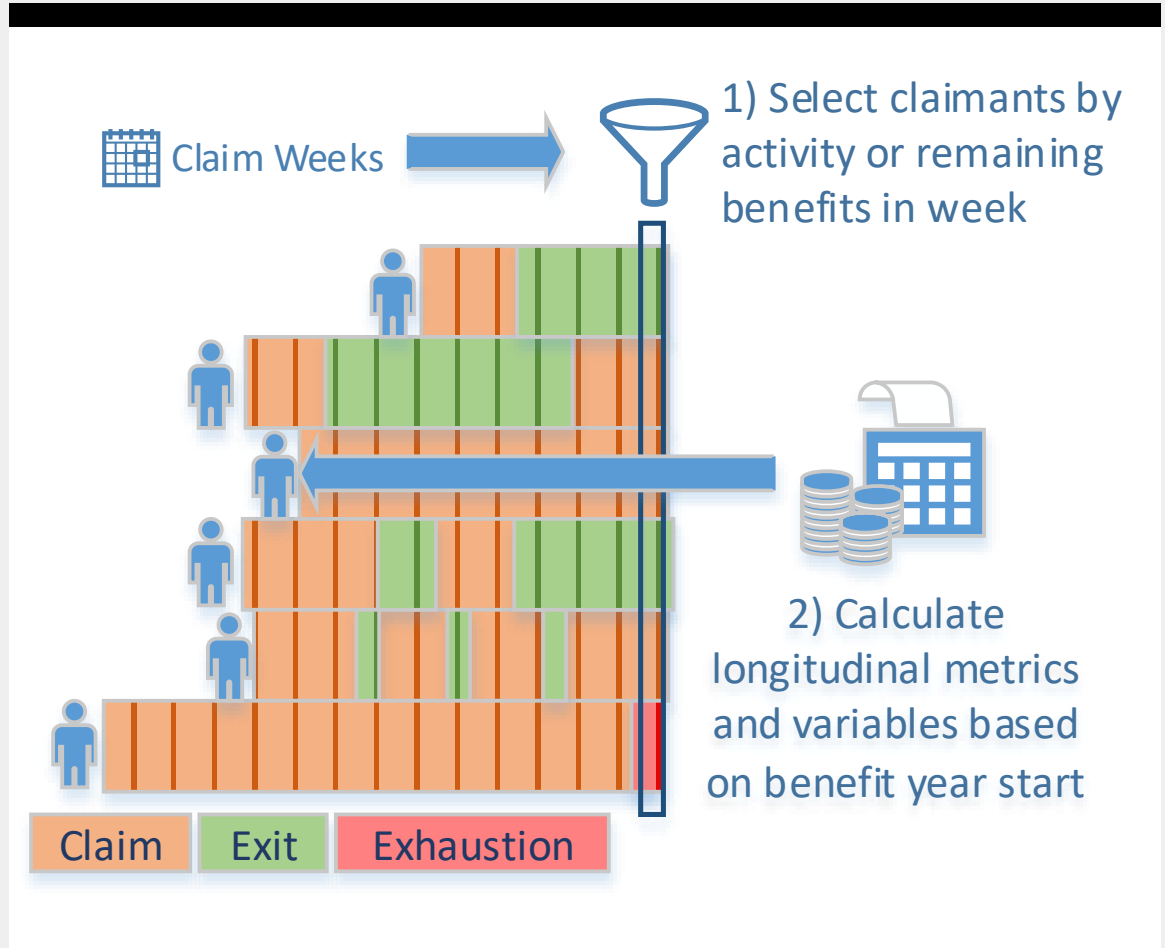
Project Design



Dimensional Model



Longitudinal Analysis



Inferring Re-Employment

- We are inferring reemployment based on pre-exhaustion exit, which requires additional literature review and validation.
- A DOL ETA UI Reemployment Pilot found
 - Exhaustion rates are *not* a good proxy for Q+1 reemployment rates
 - Exhaustion rates are a good proxy for Q+2 reemployment rates
 - It appears that in general exhaustion rates for the second quarter probably understate reemployment rates by at least 10 percent

<https://oui.doleta.gov/unemploy/reemploy/pilot.asp> -

**For Consideration of the
Arkansas Workforce Development Board**

April 20, 2021

AGENDA ITEM 6 – INFORMATION: USDOL Workforce Wednesdays Technical Assistance and Training Sessions

INFORMATION/RATIONALE: In early 2021, the U.S. Department of Labor – Dallas Regional Office (USDOL) partnered with the Division of Workforce Services – Employment Assistance Unit to begin conducting technical assistance and training sessions.

These sessions, called *Workforce Wednesdays*, are a series of virtual meetings designed to discuss various WIOA programmatic issues. The audience for these sessions includes: USDOL staff, ADWS Central Office Staff and Local Workforce Development Area staff.

WIOA Roundtable Executive Committee will provide an overview of the past year's activities and upcoming plans for the WIOA Roundtable.

Workforce Wednesdays TAT Agenda Topics
10:30 am – 12:00 Noon

March 3, 2021 – State Staff

Welcome and Introduction (Elroy Willoughby)
Brief background on who you are and history of performance
Topic: Measurable Skills Gain and Credentials
Facilitator: Cliff Atkinson

March 10, 2021 – Local and State Staff

Welcome and Introduction (Elroy Willoughby)
Arkansas Technical Assistance & Training History
Brief background on who you are and history of performance
Topic: Measurable Skills Gain and Credentials
Facilitator: Cliff Atkinson

March 17, 2021 – State Staff

Welcome and Introduction (Elroy Willoughby)
Topic: Data Validation, Reportable Individuals and Exits
Facilitator: Cliff Atkinson

March 22, 2021 - USDOL Peer-To-Peer Youth – No TAT scheduled

March 31, 2021 – Local and State Staff

Welcome and Introduction (Elroy Willoughby)
Topic: Performance Goals/ Reporting
Facilitator: Cliff Atkinson
Areas of Focus for the training:

- Why is this a game changer if we lose sight of what is not being reported?
- What actually needs to be reported?

April 28, 2021– Local and State Staff

Welcome and Introduction (Elroy Willoughby)
Topic: Costs Allocation and Allowability
Facilitator: Glarion Webb
Areas of Focus for the Training:
**The following are common findings cited in financial monitoring reports.

Multiple Roles by Local Workforce Entities	Allocation – Cost Pools
Allocation – Time	Indirect Cost Pool
Meals	Maximum Lodging Approval

Workforce Wednesdays TAT Agenda Topics

10:30 am – 12:00 Noon

May 12, 2021 – State Staff

Welcome and Introduction (Elroy Willoughby)

Topic: Quarterly Narrative Reports – WIPS

Facilitator: TBD

Areas of Focus for the Training:

- Project success
- Upcoming grant activities
- Promising practices
- Processes used

May 26, 2021

Topic: Basic Skills Deficiency

Facilitator: TBD

Areas of Focus for the Training:

- How to identify BSD during initial assessment
- How to effectively address the BSD barrier when identified through an assessment
- Not just use BSD for eligibility purposes
- Standard tools for measuring BSD
- What qualifies as a general acceptable standardized test result
- If the individual is basic skills deficient, they should be provided some type of help before given a post test for the MSG. This help need to be something other than what they get in the regular high school classroom

June 9, 2021

Topic: Initial Assessment

Facilitator: TBD

Areas of Focus for the Training:

- Required documentation for the initial assessment
- The importance of conducting a thorough initial assessment for participants
- Discuss the difference between the Initial Assessment and a Comprehensive Assessment

Reminder that the individual is a participant when given the initial assessment and that taking a basic skills test is part of the initial assessment.

TBD – Local and State Staff

Welcome and Introduction (Elroy Willoughby)

Topic: Quarterly Performance Reports & WIPS—generated from individual participant files

Facilitator: TBD

Areas of Focus for the Training:

- Characteristics
- Services
- Outcomes

**For Consideration of the
Arkansas Workforce Development Board**

April 20, 2021

AGENDA ITEM 7 – INFORMATION: Eligible Training Provider List (ETPL) and AJL ProviderLink Overview

INFORMATION/RATIONALE: WIOA has established an Eligible Training Provider process that will help support and ensure customer choice, performance accountability and continuous improvement. States and LWDBs must identify Eligible Training Providers qualified to receive WIOA funds to train adult/dislocated workers and youth.

An Eligible Training Provider is one who has met the eligibility requirements to receive WIOA Title I Adult and Dislocated Worker funds to provide training services to eligible individuals. In order to receive WIOA funds, the training providers must meet numerous ETPL requirements.

Staff will provide an update regarding the ETPL and AJL ProviderLink process.

ETPL TRANSITION STATUS REPORT and AJL PROVIDERLINK OVERVIEW

With WIOA, several reporting requirements were added to the workforce development system. Most of the people in this training are familiar with the common performance measures that are used under WIOA program Titles. Employment Rate and Median Wage 2nd and 4th quarter after exiting a program.

A major change under WIOA was heightened performance reporting for programs on the ETPL including a detailed PIRL file and wage match process that mirrors that of the larger Federal programs. WIOA also required the overall performance reports be accessible to the public.

In the preamble to Joint WIOA Final Rule, the Department explained the importance of performance reporting for ETPs,

“This information will be of significant benefit in assisting WIOA participants and members of the general public in identifying effective training programs and providers. The information will also benefit providers by widely disseminating information about their programs increasing awareness of the program and potentially as a tool to enhance their programs.”

WIOA has established an Eligible Training Provider process that will help support and ensure customer choice, performance accountability and continuous improvement. Additionally, ETPL assists in controlling spending in programs that do not lead to high demand jobs.

While ACRS collected solid registration information for each program, it lacked the systems to produce a PIRL (reporting file) and publish the overall performance of the hundreds of programs currently registered with the state.

The ADWS Employment Assistance Unit staff officially began the transition from ACRS to the AJL ProviderLink system on Sept 9, 2020. We solicited the assistance of Arkansas’ ten (10) Local Workforce Development Areas and completed the following steps:

1. We identified approx. 540 training providers and 5,162 training programs listed and approved in ACRS.
2. We identified 60 training providers and 74 training programs approved and setup in AJL ProviderLink which was a huge difference from the numbers in ACRS.
3. Began the transition to AJL started on Dec 1, 2020.

We now have 120 ETP users, 140 training providers, 6 apprenticeship sponsors and 1109 training programs approved, and the list continues to grow daily to serve more WIOA participants with training opportunities to assist them in securing viable employment in the State of Arkansas.

Until our full migration to the AJL ProviderLink, we will continue to run AJL ProviderLink and ACRS parallel until June 30, 2021.