

IV. COORDINATION WITH STATE PLAN PROGRAMS

Describe the methods used for joint planning and coordination among the core programs, and with the required one-stop partner programs and other programs and activities included in the Unified or Combined State Plan.

In an effort to foster coordinated communication and collaboration for WIOA implementation, the Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development hosted WIOA Focus Groups meetings. These convening's allowed the State to provide its current and potential partners with an opportunity to participant in WIOA implementation planning discussions and to assist with the development of policy and procedure structures. The partners that were a part of the Focus Group meetings included the Tennessee Department of Education, all the Local Workforce Development Areas, the Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development, the Tennessee Department of Human Services (Vocational Rehabilitation), Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development divisions (Unemployment Insurance Division, Division of Workforce Services and Division of Adult Education), Tennessee Board Regents (Tennessee Colleges of Applied Technology and Tennessee Community Colleges), Tennessee Opportunity Programs, Inc., and State Workforce Development Board Members. There were three Focus Group meetings held and included the following details:

- Focus Group 1 (April 2015) - provided an informational on WIOA (State Board composition, policy implications, and development of State and local plans) as well as an opportunity to review and discuss the Quick Start Action Plans (QSAP).
- Focus Group 2 (June 2015) - allowed for breakout sessions based on QSAP topics for a deeper exploration of WIOA implantation next steps and alignment of partnerships based on resources available among the group.
- Focus Group 3 (July 2015) - allowed for a discussion about how WIOA implementation would impact each required and optional partner.
- Regional Asset Mapping (August 2015) - provided an opportunity for the Local Workforce Development Areas to invite various organizations and agencies to the table to map out the various labor exchange resources in their respective area and to collaborate about how those leveraged partnerships can maximize serving their immediate communities.

Additional joint planning and coordination of programs have taken place at quarterly State Board meetings, Governor's Subcabinet meetings and various department-led committee meetings.