

#### **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.

WIOA Workgroups convene on a quarterly basis to ensure the five key objectives defined by the Governor's SWDB are addressed. These objectives include: 1) Create an Integrated Intake System to Efficiently Deliver Services; 2) Create a Shared Vision for Supporting Tennesseans with the Greatest Number of Barriers to Enter the Workforce; 3) Create a Trained Workforce to Meet Current Industry Needs; 4) Create New Dashboards to Measure the Effectiveness of the Integrated Workforce Strategy; and 5) Create a Simple and Effective Engagement Experience for All Candidates. The six (6) workgroups meet separately with respective workforce partners and report out to the respective State Workforce Development Board (SWDB) Committees during the SWDB quarterly meetings:

- Fiscal & Reporting (Oversight Committee)
- Joint Monitoring & Compliance (Oversight Committee)
- AJC's Service Delivery and Integrated Workforce Strategy (Operations Committee)
- Apprenticeship & Work-Based Learning (Operations Committee)
- Data & Performance (Innovations Committee)
- Infrastructure (Innovations Committee)

The workgroups will meet prior to each quarterly SWDB meeting, providing progress updates that are taking place to address the five (5) SWDB objectives.

In addition to the WIOA State Workgroups, the three (3) Regional Planning Councils (RPCs) meet quarterly with their regional partners (WIOA, Adult Education, Wagner Peysner, Vocational Rehabilitation, TANF, Career Technical Education, Economic Community Development, Chambers of Commerce, etc.). Each RPC is organized somewhat differently; however, their focus is centered on regional planning and coordination through the work of subcommittees at the Executive, Operations, Innovations, Career Services, and Strategic Planning levels. RPC's will provide quarterly progress reports to the state which will be reviewed to determine progress of regional partnerships. Technical assistance will be provided to the RPCs where performance and/or other operational goals are not meeting the objectives of their respective regional plan. Likewise, where RPCs are demonstrating best or promising practices, these will be shared among the WIOA workgroups as well as with other regional planning areas within the state.

The TDLWD Adult Education Division will focus on strategic partnering by participating in focus groups and work groups with the other state-level WIOA partner programs as necessary to ensure a strong and effective coordination of system services across the state. Local Adult Education programs will participate in partner collaboration in like manner on a local level. The Adult Education program will share relevant data concerning student participation, performance, co-enrollments, and transitions to postsecondary education and training programs. The Adult Education program will work in conjunction with partner programs to

create, implement, assess, and revise effective referral and co-enrollment tools and processes. Adult Education will work to ensure that local program staff across the state are trained and provided with resources necessary to understand the various WIOA programs, and to ensure that they know when and how to help students access those programs.

The Tennessee Department of Human Services (TDHS) Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Services Program as a core partner has staff co-located in all comprehensive American Job Centers (AJC). At the regional level VR staff participates in Local Workforce Development Area Boards and partner meetings. Through this participation they collaborate in planning for local activities, referrals, cross informational training, local area plans, employer services, and state and local initiatives. At the state level the VR Services Program administrative staff works closely with TN Department of Labor and Workforce Development (TDLWD) and other core partner staff on integrated customer service planning and data sharing. In 2019, the VR Services Program aligned its regional boundaries with TN Economic Community Development and TDLWD regions to further facilitate coordination on local economic, program and service provision planning, development, and partner representation. The VR Services Program's Business Services Unit works closely with the Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development and other partners to develop and implement programs and services for employers. The VR Services Program provides accessibility and accommodation surveys for AJCs to ensure that individuals with disabilities have full access to services and programs.