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Appendix 2

Subject of Policy:	**Regions Established Under WIOA**	Policy No.	**PY15-09**
To:	• Local Workforce Investment Boards • Chief Elected Officials • OneStop Operators & Managers • Required Partners	From:	Richard Freund, Acting Bureau Director and Deputy Commissioner of Labor
Issuance Date:	**November 20, 2015**	Status:	**ACTIVE**
Reference/ Authority:	• WIOA Sections 106(a) and 106(b)(1)(B) • Proposed Rule 20 CFR 679-210		

Purpose:
This policy identifies planning regions within the State as required by WIOA and articulates the criteria the State considered in identifying such regions for the purpose of administering WIOA Subtitle-B and regional planning.

Background:
Per WIOA Section 106(a) and 106(b), in order for a State to receive an allotment under Section 127(b) (*Youth formula funds*) or 132(b) (*Adult and DW formula funds*) and as part of the process for developing the State plan and after consulting with local boards (LBs) and chief elected officials (CEOs), the State shall identify regions in the State.

Such regions must be consistent with labor market areas in the State, regional economic development areas in the State, and ensure the availability of Federal and non-Federal resources necessary to effectively administer activities under Subtitle B (*Adult, DW & Youth formula programs*) and other applicable provisions of WIOA, including whether such regions have an appropriate mix of education and training providers.

Through a series of meetings and sessions, Local Board Directors and Chief Elected Officials consulted with the Bureau of Employment Services. The State Workforce Board was also consulted during the November 20, 2015 meeting. All parties agreed to the makeup of these regions.

Policy:
The State will consist of three regions each comprising at least one Local Area and a roughly equal number of Maine Counties.

REGIONS

Northeastern – shall be made up of Aroostook, Washington, Piscataquis, Penobscot and Hancock counties.
Central Western – shall be made up of Kennebec, Somerset, Androscoggin, Oxford, and Franklin counties.
Coastal Counties – shall be made up of Knox, Waldo, Lincoln, Sagadahoc, Cumberland and York counties.

Several aspects were considered in determining the division of the State into these three regions:

A. Economic Development Districts in Maine are divided almost equally among the three regions with some regions sharing a district;

Northeastern	Central Western	Coastal Counties
NMDC Northern ME Development Commission **EMDC** Eastern ME Development Corp.	**KVCOG** Kennebec Valley Council of Govts. **AVCOG** Androscoggin Valley Council of Govts.	**MCOG** Midcoast Council of Govts. **GPCOG** Greater Portland Council of Govts.
	SMPDC Southern ME Planning & Development Commission	

The Maine Department of Labor provides equal opportunity in employment and programs.
Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.

B. Similar amounts of Federal WIOA resources are allocated to each Region;

Northeastern	Central Western	Coastal Counties
$2,679, 730	$2,261,970	$2,921,420

C. Roughly equal access to institutions of higher education is available in each region;

Northeastern	Central Western	Coastal Counties
Beal College College of the Atlantic Eastern Maine Community College Husson College Northern Maine Community College University of Maine Fort Kent University of Maine Machias University of Maine Orono University of Maine Presque Isle Washington County Community College	Bates College Central Maine Community College Colby College Kaplan University Kennebec Valley Community College Thomaston College University of Maine Augusta University of Maine Farmington	Bowdoin College Kaplan University Maine College of Art Maine Maritime Academy Southern Maine Community College St. Josephs College Unity College University of New England University of Southern Maine York County Community College

D. Each region contains at least one major urban hub; and

Northeastern	Central Western	Coastal Counties
Bangor	Lewiston / Auburn	Portland

E. Commuting patterns are similar for all three regions;

Labor Force (Primary Jobs) Commuting Patterns	Northeastern	Central Western	Coastal Counties
Live and Work in Region	82.4%	70.6%	81.0%
Live & Work in region at wages of $1250/month or less	23.3%	21.2%	20.4%
Live & Work in region at wages of $1250 to $3333/month	45.2%	46.6%	39.5%
Live & Work in region at wages of $3333/month or above	31.4%	32.2%	40.0%
Age 29 or younger	19.9%	19.5%	20.0%
Age 30-54	53.5%	55.1%	54.2%
Age 55 or older	26.5%	25.3%	25.8%
Work Outside Region	17.6%	29.4%	19.3%
Work Outside their region at wages of $1250/month or less	26.1%	22.7%	21.0%
Work Outside their region at wages of 1251 to $3333/month	41.6%	40.6%	38.3%
Work Outside their region at wages of $3333/month or above	32.2%	36.7%	40.7%
Age 29 or younger	24.8%	22.9%	21.8%
Age 30-54	51.7%	53.5%	53.3%
Age 55 or older	23.5%	23.6%	24.9%
Live Outside but Work in Region	14.5%	24.6%	19.4%
Live Outside but work in region at wages of $1250/month or less	27.4%	22.1%	23.2%
Live Outside but work in region at wages of $1250 to $3333/month	41.1%	41.8%	39.8%
Live Outside but work in region at wages of $3333/month or above	31.5%	36.1%	37.0%
Age 29 or younger	26.0%	21.5%	23.7%

Age 30-54	49.1%	52.9%	53.4%
Age 55 or older	24.9%	25.6%	22.9%

F. Traditional Maine industry sectors cross all three regions;
G. Emerging and technology-based industries are spread across all three regions;
H. Regional partnerships have already been formed for the purpose of workforce, economic and community planning in each region.

Local Boards and Chief Elected Officials within each Region will be required to prepare a regional plan* that incorporates local plan elements and engages partners in a regional planning process that results in establishment of:

- Regional service strategies, using cooperative service delivery agreements;
- Development and implementation of sector strategies for in-demand sectors or occupations within the region;
- Establishment of administrative cost arrangements, including the pooling of funds for administrative costs between Local Areas within a region that has more than one Local Area;
- Coordination of transportation and other supportive services, as appropriate, for the region;
- Coordination of services with regional economic development districts and providers; and
- Establish agreement concerning how the planning region will collectively negotiate and reach agreement with the Governor on local levels of performance for, and report on, the performance accountability measures described in Section 116(c) for Local Areas within a planning region.

*Specific guidance on the required components of a Local/Regional plan is identified in WIOA Section 108 and will be further defined in ensuing policy or guidance.

Questions may be directed to:

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