

DIVISION OF EMPLOYMENT AND WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS

Western New York LWIB Regional Plan

PROGRAM YEAR 2013



Narrative

1. Describe the progress that has been made on the action steps you outlined in support of REDC strategic goals and priorities in your 2012 Regional Plan.

Strategy 1.1 – Expand Apprenticeship Models in Organizational Settings

The WIBs continue to work with the DIDIWNY through the organizations in our own areas that are implementing DIDIWNY. We share information and resources when whenever possible by participating regularly in regional WIB Director meetings to ensure that our efforts are aligned. We have developed an overview of advanced manufacturing apprenticeships operated throughout the state and shared the information with our local manufacturing groups. A major concern of employers is the expense of operating a DOL-approved apprenticeship program. All One Stops continue to recruit, screen and refer participants to both adult and youth customers.

Strategy 1.2 – Establish a Sourcing Portal for Job and Training Opportunities

The WIBs/One Stops continue to promote the use of web-based services such as NYS Job Bank, JobZone, CareerZone, etc. We are currently in the process of surveying customers in the One Stops. A regionalized handout listing resources for customers will be developed once the survey process is complete.

Strategy 1.3 – Increase Support and Accessibility for One-the-Job Training

We have taken steps to ensure that all front-line staff are knowledgeable of the OJT program including the various funding streams available and the eligibility associated. All front-line staff have been provided a copy of their local OJT policy. A quiz has been developed and we are in the process of distributing to staff.

2. Using labor market information provided through NYSDOL, identify the worker skills commensurate with your REDC's target sectors.

REDC Strategic Plans can be found at <http://regionalcouncils.ny.gov/> under the "Regional Councils" button.

We have conferred with our Regional Labor Market Analyst who has confirmed that the demand occupations of each LWIA within the region are in line with the priorities of the WNY REDC. At present time, skills data is not available. As soon as skills data is provided from NYSDOL, we will proceed from there.

3. Describe how the Regional Business Services Teams have been deployed to effectively broker the region's demand and supply for skilled workers in REDC target sectors.

The Regional Business Services Team meets regularly to share and discuss local area efforts to address the demand and supply for skilled workers. The Regional Team has revised the skills assessment tool to align with today's employer needs increasing and enhancing the job matching function of the system.

4. Identify existing resources to be utilized region-wide to help businesses and job seekers acquire occupational skills necessary to support REDC target sectors.

Examples may include: align approval of Eligible Training Providers so that skills upgrading and training capacity can be viewed regionally (rather than locally); align procurement of youth services under the Workforce Investment Act with needs identified by the REDC; and align Individual Training Account policy across LWIAs within the region regarding amount, target sectors and/or skills.

The region can share financial resources when possible to ensure that customers seeking training in the REDC target sectors can obtain the occupational skills necessary. In order to support REDC target sectors through training, we will utilize the new DOL website to better align our region's demand occupation lists. We will also explore the opportunities to align financial resources in order to support classroom training to meet the region's employer needs.

5. Describe how the business memberships of the region's LWIBs have or are planned to be aligned with REDC target sectors and/or REDC members.

Currently, the business membership of our boards is aligned as closely as possible to the REDC target sectors while also reflecting local job opportunities as required.