

The Public Workforce System¹

The public workforce system is a network of federal, state, and local offices that function to support economic expansion and develop the talent of our nation's workforce. In order to meet the challenge of the 21st century global economy, the public workforce system works in partnership with employers, educators, and community leaders to foster economic development and high-growth opportunities in regional economies. This system exists to help businesses find qualified workers to meet their present and future workforce needs.

How the Public Workforce System Is Organized

Although the public workforce system is federally funded, most of the services for businesses are available at the state and local levels. Under the Workforce Investment Act of 1998, each state establishes a state workforce investment board, which determines strategic priorities, identifies high-growth industries, develops a workforce investment budget, and establishes local workforce investment areas across the state. Each state must also create a strategic plan, which is publicly available and can provide insight into opportunities for your business.

Workforce Investment Boards

To ensure that the workforce system is focusing on the regional economy, each state is divided into one or more workforce areas, controlled by a local workforce investment board. Workforce investment boards have several important functions in the public workforce system. They determine how many One Stop Career Centers are needed in their area, where they will be located, and how they will be operated. The boards analyze workforce information to identify targeted industries and plan for future growth.

By law, more than 50 percent of each workforce investment board is made up of employer representatives from the community. Each workforce investment board represents businesses like yours and is interested in hearing from employers like you about your workforce needs, your growth

¹This information is from <http://doleta.gov/business> and modified to include Indiana specific information

opportunities, and ways you would like to partner.

Indiana Workforce Investment Boards

There are two models for Indiana Workforce Investment Boards: the region can set up and use its own independent WIB, or one or more regions can combine their resources and create a multiregional board.

Eight of the regions in Indiana have a regional workforce investment board; four regions—Regions 5, 8, 9, and 11—chose a multi-region board. This allows the regions to retain their own 16 member regional boards for more operational flexibility, and also allowed a combination of resources for the multi-region board, which is able to focus more on long term strategy and general oversight. The multi-region workforce investment board is the primary contact with the state-wide board, the State Workforce Innovation Council, and with the federal Department of Labor

One Stop Career Centers

The heart of the public workforce system is the One Stop Career Center, your access point to qualified workers as well as federal, state, and local resources and assistance. There are approximately 3,000 One Stop Career Centers located in all 50 states and Puerto Rico.

One Stop Career Centers place a multitude of resources for businesses and for job seekers under one roof. The typical One Stop Career Center serves thousands of individuals who are seeking employment, changing jobs, reentering the workforce, or learning new skills. That makes One Stop Career Centers an ideal source of workforce solutions for many companies.