



City of Santa Ana
20 Civic Center Plaza, Santa Ana, CA 92701
Workforce Development Board Staff Report
May 18, 2023

Topic: Biennial Modification to the PY 2021-24 Region and Local Workforce Plan

AGENDA TITLE:

Biennial Modification to the Program Year (PY) 2021-24 Region and Local Workforce Plan for grant funds received from the Federal Title I Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

1. Ratify the action taken at a Special Meeting of the Executive Committee held on March 22, 2023:
 - A. Approve the modification to the Regional and Unified Local Plan for PY 2021-24 and authorize staff to submit the documents to the California Workforce Development Board and State of California Employment Development Department.
 - B. Authorize the Chair of the Workforce Development Board to sign all documents required by the California Workforce Development Board and the State of California Employment Development Department necessary for the submission of the modified Regional and Unified Local Plan.
 - C. Recommend City Council approve and authorize the Mayor to sign all documents necessary for the submission of the PY 2021-24 modified Regional and Unified Local Plan.
 - D. Authorize staff to make necessary revisions to the PY 2021-24 Regional and Unified Local Plan to address public comments received that disagree with the modified Regional and the Unified Local Plan and or as requested by staff from the California Workforce Development Board and State of California Employment Development Department.

DISCUSSION

At the special meeting of the Executive Committee held on March 22, 2023 by a vote of 4:0 (Perez absent) the above recommended action was approved.

A special meeting was called for the Executive Committee to approve the referenced actions above necessary for submission of the biennial update to the Regional and Local Plan.

As shared with the Executive Committee, under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), a biennial update of region and local plans is required in part to ensure plans remain current and account for changes in labor market and economic conditions or other factors affecting the implementation of the local plan (29 U.S. Code 3123).

The California Unified Strategic Workforce Development Plan (State Plan) is an overarching state policy document that provides a conceptual outline for Local Workforce Boards and their partners as they jointly develop regional and local plans. The State Plan policy objectives, developed in collaboration with WIOA partners and Local Boards, drive towards the shared vision of creating a comprehensive system that impacts poverty, promotes income mobility, and embeds equity as a cornerstone of service-delivery.

As outlined under WIOA Section 106, Regional Plans provide a roadmap for alignment of resources and investments to meet specific outcomes within the 15 Regional Planning Units (RPU). Regional Plans are used to articulate how RPUs will build intentionality around industry sector engagement, drive workforce development outcomes across multiple jurisdictions, and expand on-ramps to career pathways for individuals who experience barriers to employment.

As outlined in WIOA Section 108, Local Plans provide an action plan for operationalizing the roadmap laid out in the Regional Plan by describing how individuals access services through their local America's Job Center of California (AJCC) system. Local Plans articulate how Local Boards will coordinate with local partners to ensure person-centered service-delivery.

After three years of COVID-19, the economy is rebounding and shifting back to pre-pandemic conditions. However, for communities that have historically experienced barriers to employment, the pandemic-induced recession exacerbated and compounded long-standing disparities and economic inequities.

The State Board issued guidance to Local Boards on the requirements associated with local and regional plan modifications in Directive WSD 22-05.

In alignment with the State Plan, the draft Regional and Unified Local Plans (Exhibit 1 and 2) focus on the development of partnerships to create a coordinated service delivery approach to targeted populations, including individuals with barriers to employment and hard to serve populations. In order to develop a Regional and Local Plan that represents all the moving parts involved in the workforce system, the Directors and staff from the Anaheim, County of Orange, and Santa Ana Workforce Boards (Orange Region Planning Unit - ORPU) proactively engaged leadership from the community and key partners through a series of community stakeholder engagement sessions held in the fall of 2022; collectively approaching leaders and decision makers as one workforce system. For this reason, the ORPU also collaborated on the preparation of a Local Plan to develop a Unified Local Plan.

The draft Regional and Local Plan was posted for a 30-day public review and comment period with no written comments received. The plan documents were submitted to the State by the March 31, 2023 deadline.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact associated with this action.

EXHIBIT(S)

1. Draft PY 2021-24 Two Year Modification - Regional Plan
2. Draft PY 2021-24 Two Year Modification - Local Plan

Submitted By:

Marc Morley, Economic Development Manager

Approved By:

Michael L. Garcia, Executive Director of Community Development