



# New Jersey State Employment and Training Commission

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Dennis M. Bone, *Chairman*

Chris Christie, *Governor*

## **POLICY RESOLUTION: SETC #2016-12**

**SUBJECT:** New Jersey Combined State Plan for the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, 2016

### **Collaborative Process to Develop the NJ Combined State Plan**

In 2014, the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) was signed into law, setting a new direction for workforce development programs across the nation. New Jersey launched a collaborative effort to develop and implement a shared vision for talent development and to prepare for the implementation of this new legislation, beginning with the creation of a Combined State Plan. This effort involved the launch of a WIOA website, development of six workgroups of stakeholders and state staff, webinars to solicit additional input and a two-day “Pathways and Partnerships” conference with more than 300 stakeholder participants.

The resulting *New Jersey Blueprint for Talent Development* was adopted by the State Employment and Training Commission (SETC) on June 16, 2015 to guide the implementation of WIOA and to serve as a foundation for this State Plan. In the fall of 2015, the SETC and LWD worked closely with stakeholders, partners and SETC Committees to further refine the Plan and to develop policies to fully implement WIOA and to further build a talent development system.

In December 2015, the SETC and LWD jointly hosted a two-day policy discussion and feedback session with key stakeholders in the workforce system. Key policies and program initiatives related to Board Governance, Performance and ETPL, Career Pathways and One-Stop Operations were shared with more than 100 representatives from the state board, local workforce boards, state and local partner agencies, community colleges, literacy program providers, and state and local workforce program staff. In addition to the verbal feedback received during these two days, participants were able to submit written comments through an online portal on the LWD website.

Throughout the planning process, workgroups met with SETC standing committees covering governance, adult literacy, youth, and performance to further enhance connection with the SETC, to develop the key policies which were adopted as resolutions by the SETC on the recommendation of these standing committees.

**Public Comment Period and Ongoing Feedback/Review**

The draft New Jersey Combined State Plan will be released for public comment, with comments due to the SETC on Monday, March 28, 2016. The Combined State Plan must be submitted to USDOL by Friday, April 1, 2016, with the public comment period completed. While the initial public comment time period is short, partners and stakeholders may provide feedback on the State Plan beyond that period. The Plan is a living and breathing document that will, over time, be reviewed and modified as necessary.

**RESOLUTION:**

**The State Employment and Training Commission hereby resolves to approve the draft New Jersey Combined State Plan for WIOA, 2016 for submission to the US Department of Labor by April 1, 2016, as required.**

**Commission Approved: March 29, 2016**