

## Agenda

### 1. Recently updated ETPL

It was discussed that the updated policy was changed to reflect Final Rules, previous discussions with WDBs, review of other states' policies, and insight and guidance from USDOL Region I staff. With that in mind, the policy was edited to provide for flexibility in terms of approval of providers and programs of training, especially those programs that do not result in an independent and industry recognized credential but otherwise meet policy requirements (employment, measurable skills gain, etc.) While flexible, the goal is also to maintain a level of integrity regarding the access of ETPL-approved training and the use of WIOA funds to support the participant.

Concerns regarding customer choice for these programs and the impact on meeting credential attainment measures have been raised in the past and continue. As part of the guidance offered during the meeting, WDBs were advised that they may have local policies regarding ITA issuance that may prioritize based on credentialing, positive employment outcomes, targeted career pathways and in-demand industries and occupations.

In addition to the updated policy as it relates to ETP eligibility, continued eligibility has now been included which also outlines performance reporting requirements. Procedures for the data collection are being drafted and should be provided to WDBs shortly. The CTHires system will be updated by Geographic Solutions so that batch uploads of performance data may be accepted from training providers. WDBs were inclined to allow for training providers to upload the data on their own; however there was some concern that with that permission and level of access in the system, changes may be made to other vital provider and program information inappropriately. This concern was being pursued with Geographic Solutions for available options. Along with the forthcoming procedures, until CTHires is ready to accept the upload, WDBs will be required to provide training providers with a spreadsheet to be completed and submitted to them on at least a quarterly basis. CTDOL will be working directly with the Connecticut State College and University (CSCU) system to collect this data on a statewide basis. This will assist to alleviate the burden on the WDBs resource capacity.

In terms of reporting, CTDOL staff informed the WDBs of a recently approved waiver in 4 other states that relieves ETPs from reporting on all training participants by only requiring the information of WIOA training participants. CTDOL intends to pursue this waiver.

### **ETPL Follow up items**

1. For CSCU programs that do not lead to independent credentials an endorsement form is needed if the institution wishes to have the program considered as a credentialed program, CTDOL will work with CSCU to ensure this form is updated and provided to all to ensure consistency in use.
2. ETPL waiver to be drafted to allow ETPs to report on only WIOA training participants.

## 2. Performance Negotiations

WDBs were provided an update regarding the PY18 and PY19 performance goals and negotiations. It was brought to the WDBs attention that CTDOL did submit a counter proposal to USDOL Region I staff for the proposed goals sent to CTDOL by the region. The region accepted the counter proposal. CTDOL then began to review the USDOL provided Local Performance Tool to begin to craft proposed local goals. In attempting to use the tool, CTDOL determined that the tool did not seem to produce valid predicted or targeted outcomes. This had previously been discovered the year before when CTDOL's Office of Research made an effort to adapt the tool for CT-specific data. CTDOL reached out to the USDOL national office in an effort to determine the viability of the tool for use in local negotiations. During the discussion, it was concluded that the tool was not a practical solution for CT; it was recommended that CT would be well served by pursuing its own tool i.e. statistical adjustment model, that utilized the framework as defined in the WIOA legislation.

As a result of the aforementioned pursuits, CTDOL proposed that the WDBs accept the PY18 and PY19 goals as accepted by USDOL Region I. There was some hesitation regarding this option since WDBs were concerned of possible sanctioning associated with performance failures. CTDOL offered to confirm to the extent possible the likelihood of sanctioning related to performance outcomes. Based on responses from USDOL, CTDOL provided WDBs with the information that the sanctioning process related to performance would be a phase in process to begin in PY2020.

Update – CTDOL sent out this above information to the WDBs with the performance goals and a request to accept by signing the performance goals template provided to them in an email dated July 25, 2018.

## 3. Upcoming USDOL consolidated review.

WDBs were alerted to the upcoming Consolidated Review to be conducted by USDOL Region I staff in March of 2019. CTDOL will review the previous consolidated review and further discuss findings and areas of concern that impact WDBs both from the state and local level. The goal will be to ensure that these issues have been appropriately addressed, resolved and implemented.

## 4. Measurable Skills Gain – **Follow up required**

This topic was raised and, although not specifically discussed in depth, a local WDB intended to follow up with their questions – see below:

Don't see the benefit of TAA co-enrolled in WIOA since MSG is not achieved

MSG is counted in year 2 even when customers are not enrolled in education or training, why?

For Adults/DW does education status at enrollment, exit or follow up affect if they are pulled into MSG or not? For example if we have a WIOA Adult enrolled in post-secondary education or in-school; post-secondary school at enrollment are they pulled into MSG?

What WIOA activities pull a customer into MSG?