



# Workforce Development Board Of

## Mendocino County

631 S. Orchard Ave. Ukiah, CA 95482



### Memorandum

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**Date:** May 19, 2015

**To:** Mendocino County Board of Supervisors

**From:** Debra Holmes, Workforce Development Board Administrator

**Subject:** Workforce Alliance of the North Bay Local Workforce  
Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Local and Regional  
Plans

WIOA's overall purpose is to improve the local workforce system and the Workforce Development Board (WDB) is the mechanism by which this effort is accomplished. The Mendocino County Planning and Building Department provides administrative support to the WDB. To this end, the WDB works throughout the community to align employment and training programs and services with education and business. The WDB through Mendocino Works, the local America's Job Center of California, assists local job seekers access employment, education, training, and support services using WIOA funding so that they can become employed. Mendocino Works also matches employers with skilled workers in support of our local economy.

WIOA requires each state to develop a single, unified plan for creating a comprehensive, strategic, and streamlined workforce system. In 2016, the California Workforce Development Board created their WIOA plan for California. The state plan identified regions as well as local areas and required each region and local area to develop a plan using the guidance established in the plan. The North Bay Region includes Sonoma, Lake, Mendocino, Marin, Napa and Solano counties.

The regional plan's required focus is to develop strategies to implement and strengthen sector strategies, career pathways and regional partnerships. The regional plan was developed with partners and stakeholders, including industry leaders and business organizations, economic development agencies, regional consortia of community colleges, regional consortia of adult education providers, representatives of K-12 and Career Technical Education, Department of Rehabilitation, County Welfare agencies, Community Based Organizations, groups with experience representing and serving individuals with barriers to employment, and the community as a whole. Stakeholder input sessions were held throughout the region in every county, including at meetings of local workforce boards, community colleges, and partner convening's. Stakeholders were also encouraged to submit written input if unable to attend in person. Attendees were asked to help identify any existing gaps in the workforce development system, propose possible solutions, and identify ways that resources can be better coordinated and leveraged. In addition, the plan was posted for a 30-day comment period from January 30-February 28, 2017, with no comments received.





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Local Plan Background: On May 19, 2017, in response to concerns over rising costs for the County of Mendocino to operate a single county local workforce delivery area, the Board approved a letter requesting inclusion in the Joint Powers Agency consisting of the Counties of Napa, Lake & Marin, to operate in a regional Workforce Development Board, which is known as the Workforce Alliance of the North Bay (WANB). This request is currently pending and its approval is anticipated at the WANB Governance Meeting on June 6, 2017.

The local plan was written in conjunction with the WANB and complements the state plan by focusing on the alignment between education and business in the development of industry sector partnerships and career pathways; the provision of enhanced services and improved service delivery and access to the workforce system for job seekers and employers; and compliance with new performance measures coupled with increased access to data. The local plan was developed with partners and stakeholders including industry leaders and business organizations, economic development agencies, local schools and colleges including K-12 and Career Technical Education, adult education providers, Department of Rehabilitation, local CBOs, groups with experience representing and serving individuals with barriers to employment and the community as a whole. A stakeholder input session was held in November 2016. Stakeholders were also encouraged to submit written input if unable to attend. In addition, the plan was posted for a 30-day comment period from February 3-March 6, 2017, with no comments received in any of the participating counties.

As required by WIOA, the WDB must submit the regional plan and the local plan, approved by the Board of Supervisors, to the state by June 1, 2017. Once signed, the regional and local plans will be sent to the California Workforce Development Board for review and final approval.