

Chapter 2

Integration of Strategies and Services

A. *Provide an analysis of workforce development activities, including education and training, in the region.*

Workforce development activities include classroom training, job search assistance, on-the-job training, essential skills training, customized training, business services, work experience, incumbent worker training, apprenticeship programs, and job shadowing.

1. How well do existing training programs in the region and local areas prepare job seekers to enter and retain employment with regional businesses?

Existing training programs are excellent for preparing job seekers to enter and retain employment with businesses.

2. What existing service delivery strategies will be expanded based on promising ROI?

Business services are strong in 7 counties and developing in 3 counties. This may be the most promising service delivery strategy to be expanded based on business-focus and return on investment.

3. What new service strategies will be used to address regional educational and training needs based on promising ROI?

A primary new service strategy to address education and training needs will be collaboration of partners for special populations, such as programs for the agricultural workers, those who have a disability, and returning citizens.

4. What existing service delivery strategies will be curtailed or eliminated based on minimal ROI?

No existing service delivery strategy will be eliminated.

5. What steps will be taken to support the state strategies and goals to align and integrate education, workforce and economic development?

State strategies and goals are already being aligned and integrated, but will continue to be challenging due to antiquated state technology which is not integrated.

6. What formal and informal cooperative procedures will the core partners and other required partners establish to align services and coordinate delivery?

Core partners and other required partners will continue to have effective memoranda of understanding (MOU), and progress is being made to co-locate within Illinois workNet Centers / American Job Centers[®].

Strengths:

1. Several local community colleges that offer training in growth occupations.
2. Area involvement with multiple partners for client strategies
3. Essential Skills Training

4. Customized labor market information
5. Area business buy in with IWT
6. Good relationship with IDES for Business Services
7. In local area, the advisory boards at the community college for manufacturing and logistics do a good job in providing direction for training programs.

Weaknesses:

1. Semester rigid classroom structures
2. Silo funded activities
3. Aging workforce and also inability to recruit younger generation into entry level
4. The move from entry level RNs from Associate Degree to BSN by area health care providers
5. Business Services representatives from IDES are regional and so far removed from local offices in Area 4 that communication is limited or difficult to coordinate
6. Referral Process needs strengthening with proper follow up and documentation
7. In the area of incumbent worker training, DOL outlined requirements continue to limit the type of training needed and requested by area employers.

B. Describe how transportation and other supportive services are coordinated within the region.

Support Services are provided by multiple agencies under each entity's eligibility. A resource mapping of local area and region would be beneficial to meet the needs of referral in this category.

Vouchers for eligible individuals to access public transportation including buses operated by LOTS, B-PART, and N-CAT. Concern would be grant funding to support these entities as currently it is through the State of Illinois (IDOT)

1. What regional organizations currently provide or could provide supportive services?

Organizations providing supportive services include but are not limited to
Business Employment Skills Team, Inc. (BEST, Inc.),
Rock Island Tri-County Consortium (Partners in Job Training & Placement),
Illinois Department of Human Services, both Rehabilitation and TANF,
Tri County Opportunities Council,
Northwestern Illinois Community Action Agency,
Project Now, and
The Illinois Migrant Council.

2. What policies and procedures will be established to promote coordination of supportive services delivery?

Policies and procedures will be coordinated through the MOU process, but will continue to be challenging due to antiquated state technology which is not integrated.

C. *Describe the coordination of services with regional economic development services and providers.*

1. What economic development organizations or businesses are actively engaged in regional planning?

Economic development organizations and businesses include

Tri-County Economic Development Alliance (TCEDA),

North Central Illinois Council of Governments (NCICG),

Blackhawk Hills Regional Council,

University of Illinois Extension,

Bi-State Regional Commission,

U. S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation,

Illinois Department of Commerce (DCEO),

Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES),

BEST, Inc.,

Rock Island Tri-County Consortium,

Iowa Health System, UnityPoint Trinity hospitals and clinics,

Genesis Health System hospitals and clinics,

Hope Creek Nursing Home.

2. What economic development organizations or businesses were invited to participate but declined?

No economic development organizations and businesses have declined.

3. What input was provided by regional economic development organizations and businesses?

Input was provided by all of these organizations and businesses, including

Studies,

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS),

Labor Market Information (LMI),

Survey preparation, and

Plan compiling and writing.

4. What input provided by economic development and businesses was incorporated into the regional plan?

Chapters 1, 2, and 3.

D. Describe the coordination of administrative cost arrangements, including the pooling of funds for administrative costs, as appropriate.

There may be possible future regional grants, but there are none at this time.