

AGREEMENT

Between

THE ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY BOARD OF LEGISLATORS

and

THE ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD

I. PURPOSE

This Agreement is entered into between the chairs of the St. Lawrence County Board of Legislators hereinafter referred to as the “CLEO,” and the St. Lawrence County Workforce Investment Board, hereinafter referred to as the “WIB.”

The purpose of this Agreement between the above mentioned entities is to establish their respective roles and responsibilities for implementation of the provisions of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998, Public Law 105-220.

This Agreement is to coordinate resources, prevent duplication and ensure the effective and efficient delivery of workforce services in St. Lawrence County. In addition, this Agreement will establish joint processes and procedures that will enable the entities to integrate the current service delivery system resulting in a seamless and comprehensive array of education, human service, job training, and other workforce development services in the St. Lawrence County local workforce area.

Parties to this document shall coordinate and perform the activities and services described herein within the scope of legislative requirements governing the parties’ respective programs, services and agencies.

II. INTRODUCTION

The CLEO and WIB enter into this Agreement to ensure that the seven key principles of the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) of 1998 are implemented.

- **Streamlining services** through better integration in the One-Stop delivery system. Programs and providers will co-locate, coordinate and integrate activities and information, so that the system as a whole is coherent and accessible for individuals and businesses alike.

- **Empowering individuals** in several ways. First, eligible adults are given financial power to use Individual Training Accounts (ITA's) at qualified institutions. Second, individuals are empowered with greater levels of information and guidance, through a system of consumer reports providing key information on the performance outcomes of training and education providers. Third, individuals are empowered through the advice, guidance and support available through the One-Stop system, and the activities of One-Stop partners.
- **Universal access.** Any individual will have access to the One-Stop system and to core employment-related services. Information about job vacancies, career options, student financial aid, relevant employment trends, and instruction on how to conduct a job search, write a resume, or interview with an employer is available to any job seeker in the United States, or anyone who wants to advance his or her career.
- **Increased accountability.** The goal of the Act is to increase employment, retention and earnings of participants, and in doing so, improve the quality of the workforce to sustain economic growth, enhance productivity and competitiveness, and reduce welfare dependency.
- **Strong role for local workforce investment boards** and the private sector, with local, business-led boards acting as "boards of directors," focusing on strategic planning, policy development and oversight of the local workforce investment system.
- **State and local flexibility.** States and localities have increased flexibility, with significant authority reserved for the Governor and the chief elected officials, to build on existing reforms in order to implement innovative and comprehensive workforce investment systems tailored to meet the particular needs of local and regional labor markets.
- **Improved youth programs** linked more closely to local labor market needs and community youth programs and services, and with strong connections between academic and occupational learning.

III. PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE

This Agreement shall commence on July 1, 2000 and terminate when the Workforce Investment Act expires, unless either party notifies the other of its intention to terminate with at least 90 days prior notice.

IV. GENERAL PROVISIONS

A. Grant Recipient and Fiscal Agent

The Grant Recipient of the local Workforce Investment Area will be the St. Lawrence County Board of Legislators. The St. Lawrence County Office of Economic Development will be designated as the Fiscal Agent.

B. Responsibilities of the Workforce Investment Board

The WIB is a policy-making and oversight entity, which is responsible for organizing a comprehensive county-wide response to the challenges of building a highly skilled workforce.

The Workforce Investment Act outlines nine key functions that WIB should carry out:

- (1) Developing the five-year local workforce investment plan (Local Plan) and conducting oversight of the One-Stop system, youth activities and employment and training activities under title I of WIA, in partnership with (see addendum) the CLEO;
- (2) Selecting One-Stop operators with the agreement of (see addendum) the CLEO;
- (3) Selecting eligible youth service providers based on the recommendations of the youth council, and identifying eligible providers of adult and dislocated worker intensive services and training services, and maintaining a list of eligible providers with performance and cost information;
- (4) Developing a budget for the purpose of carrying out the duties of the WIB, subject to the approval of (see addendum) the CLEO;
- (5) Negotiating and reaching agreement on (see addendum) local performance measures with the CLEO and the Governor;
- (6) Assisting the Governor in developing the Statewide employment statistics system under the Wagner-Peyser Act;
- (7) Coordinating workforce investment activities with economic development strategies and developing employer linkages;
- (8) Promoting private sector involvement in the Statewide workforce investment system through effective connecting, brokering, and coaching activities through intermediaries such as the One-Stop operator in the local area or through other organizations, to assist employers in meeting hiring needs; and
- (9) The WIB, in cooperation with (see addendum) the CLEO, appoints a youth council as a subgroup of the WIB and coordinates workforce and youth plans and activities with the youth council.

C. Staffing

The CLEO and the WIB agree that the St. Lawrence County Office of Economic Development staff will act as staff to the WIB.

D. Dispute Clause

Should disputes arise from this Agreement, the Chair of the St. Lawrence County Board of Legislators and the Chair of the Workforce Investment Board will meet to try to accomplish an informal resolution. If this fails, they will appoint a 6-member committee consisting of three (3) members of the Board of Legislators and three (3) members of the Workforce Investment Board to mediate a resolution. Their majority decision will be binding. Should a majority decision not be achieved, either party may bring the issue in dispute to the Governor's attention for resolution.

E. Independence of Terms Under This Agreement

If any terms or provisions of this agreement or the application thereof to any person or circumstance shall, to any extent be held invalid or unenforceable, the remainder of this agreement, or the application of such terms or provision to persons or circumstances other than those as to which it is held invalid or unenforceable, shall not be effected thereby and every other term and provision of this agreement shall be valid and enforce to the fullest extent permitted by law.

F. Compliance

The WIB members represent and warrant that they have not offered or given any gratuity to any official employee or agent of the County, or any political party, with the purpose or intent of securing an agreement or securing favorable treatment with respect to the awarding or amending of an agreement or the making of any determinations with respect to the performance or an agreement, and that each WIB member has read and is familiar with the provisions of this agreement.

G. WIB Membership

The CLEO will solicit nominations for Business membership to the Local Board from the St. Lawrence County Chamber of Commerce, local Chambers of Commerce, other business organizations, and business trade associations. Other Than Business membership to the Local Board will be solicited by the CLEO based on required membership needs from nominations made by local educational entities, labor organizations, community-based organizations, economic development agencies, each of the One-Stop partners, and may include the individuals or representatives of entities as the CLEO may determine to be appropriate. Said nominations are brought to the full Board of Legislators for approval. The Workforce Investment Board shall have input with the CLEO in the nomination process.

H. Youth Council Membership

Names of potential Youth Council members will be forwarded by the WIB to the appropriate Board of Legislators' committee for comment. Appointments to the Youth Council will be made by the WIB.

I. Fiscal Procedure

The St. Lawrence County Board of Legislators will establish budgets under the major cost categories (Administration, Programs, etc). The WIB will approve line item budgeting. All budgets, with the exception of the WIB Board budget, will be contained within the County Budget using general accepted accounting principles and the Uniform System of Accounts for Counties as guidelines.

J. This document may be amended by written authorization of both parties hereto.

APPROVED

County of St. Lawrence

BY: _____

R. Shawn Gray
Chair
St. Lawrence County
Board of Legislators

APPROVED

Workforce Investment Board

BY: _____

Lynn Blevins
Chairman
St. Lawrence County
Workforce Investment Board

ADDENDUM TO THE AGREEMENT

between

THE ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY BOARD OF LEGISLATORS

and

THE ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD

- Section IV B.(1) “in partnership with”—Workforce Investment Board and Office of Economic Development staff will develop a plan which will be presented to Workforce Investment Board and Chief Local Elected Official for respective approvals.
- Section IV B.(2) “with the agreement of”—Both Workforce Investment Board and Chief Local Elected Official must approve selection of One-Stop operators by separate resolutions.
- Section IV B.(4) “subject to the approval of”—See Section IV paragraph “I”—Fiscal Procedure.
- Section IV B.(5) “reaching agreement on”—County Administrator will represent County on local area negotiation team. County Administrator will advise the appropriate committee of the Legislature on negotiating issues. Final performance standards will be approved by the Workforce Investment Board.
- Section IV B.(9) “in cooperation with”—Workforce Investment Board will submit names of prospective Youth Council members for their comments and recommendations (including additional nominations) to the appropriate County legislative committee.