

Chapter 160

CONSORTIUM AGREEMENT

An agreement between the Counties of Carroll, Jo Daviess, Ogle, Stephenson, and Whiteside, providing for sponsorship of a Workforce Investment Area under the provisions of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (Public Law 105-220).

Whereas, the Congress of the United States, and the President have enacted the Workforce Investment Act of 1998, (Hereinafter referred to as the "Act"),

Whereas, the Act authorizes workforce investment activities that increase the employment, retention and earnings of participants, and increase occupational skill attainment by participants, which will improve the quality of the workforce, reduce welfare dependency, and enhance the productivity and competitiveness of the Nation's economy in designated local workforce investment areas (LWIAs), and

Whereas, Carroll, Jo Daviess, Ogle, Stephenson and Whiteside Counties constitute a jurisdictional area designated as a LWIA in the State of Illinois;

Therefore be it resolved, that the Agreement is made and entered into by the County Board Chairs on behalf of the Counties of Carroll, Jo Daviess, Ogle, Stephenson, and Whiteside, and that said Agreement is executed in accordance with the provisions of the Illinois Constitution, Article VII, Section 10, and by the Intergovernmental Cooperation Act (Public Act 78-785), Illinois Compiled Statutes, Chapter 5, paragraph 220/1 et. seq.

- I. The name of the Consortium shall be the "Northwest Illinois Workforce Partnership".
- II. The geographical area to be served consists of all territory within the jurisdictional boundaries of Carroll, Jo Daviess, Ogle, Stephenson, and Whiteside Counties.
- III. The Northwest Illinois Workforce Partnership is a public agency, a unit of local government and a special district within the meaning of the Intergovernmental Cooperation Act and the Illinois Constitution of 1970.

IV. The governing body of the Northwest Illinois Workforce Partnership is the Policy Board.

V. The Policy Board consists of the chief elected official of each of the counties. Each chief elected official may appoint a member of the county board of that county to act in place of that chief elected official. The Policy Board has five members. Each of the five members who is present at a meeting of the Policy Board has one vote. A quorum of members consists of three members. Any action upon which a vote is taken requires the affirmative vote of a majority of the members present, unless otherwise required by law applicable to the particular subject matter of the vote.

VI. In accordance with Section 111 of the Act requiring the establishment of a Workforce Investment Board, appointments to the Board will be made as follows:

The total number of members is 37. Membership from the respective counties is based upon the relative populations of these counties.

COUNTY	POPULATION 1997 CENSUS	% OF TOTAL	NUMBER OF LWIB MEMBERS
CARROLL	16,941	8%	3
JO DAVIESS	21,678	11%	4
OGLE	50,199	24%	9
STEPHENSON	49,354	24%	9
WHITESIDE	68,073	33%	12
TOTAL	206,245	100%	37

Each chief elected official is responsible for securing nominations to fill vacancies for their respective county per state and federal requirements as outlined in the Criteria for Local Workforce Investment Boards. Nominees must live, work or represent an agency that provides services in LWIA Region 4. Each nominee for board membership will be considered

individually. CEOs will vote on potential board nominees at regularly scheduled meetings or a paper ballot may be circulated in lieu of a public meeting to consider potential board members. Each of the five counties shall cast a vote/ballot on the approval of nominees. Nominees must be approved by a simple majority vote of the CEOs. A transmittal letter and required documents will be forwarded to the Governor's Office for review and certification. Nominees will receive written confirmation of their appointment once confirmed by the state.

Composition of the LWIA Region 4 Local Workforce Investment Board shall include:

- 51% or 19 members will be representatives of business in the local area who are owners, chief executive officers, and other executives with optimum policymaking or hiring authority. Local business organizations and trade association will nominate business representatives.
- 4 educational representatives - one community college president, one post-secondary Perkins, one adult literacy representative, and one general education representative.
- 2 labor organization representatives;
- 2 community based organizations representatives;
- 2 economic development organizations;
- 1 TANF representative;
- 1 vocational rehabilitation representative;
- 1 Title V Older American representative;
- 1 Community Service Block Grant representative;
- 1 HUD representative that operates a workforce program;
- 1 Welfare to Work representative;

- 1 IDES representative (Wagner-Peyser, UI, Veterans, NAFTA); and
- 1 WIA Title I representative.

Board members will serve three year terms. As State rules require staggered terms, one third of the membership will initially be appointed for 1 year, one third will be appointed for two years and one third will be appointed to serve a three year term.

Board members will serve until:

1. Their term of office expires, or
2. The status under which they were appointed changes, or
3. The five County Chairpersons revoke their appointment, or
4. The member becomes incapacitated or otherwise unable to complete their term of office, or
5. The member resigns.

Vacancies in the membership of the Board shall be filled in accordance with the requirements of the Act, as interpreted in the regulations of the State of Illinois.

Whereas, Section 117(d)(3)(B) of the WIA specifies that the local Chief Elected Officials shall serve as the grant recipient and that in this capacity they shall enter into a grant relationship with the state for all WIA Title I funds (i.e., the adult, youth, and dislocated worker grants), disbursing these funds at the discretion of the Local Workforce Investment Board (as long as that direction does not violate provision of the WIA); and

Whereas the Act also provides that the Chief Elected Officials may designate a fiscal agent to handle the disbursement of funds and to fulfill the role of grant recipient (the CEOs retaining financial responsibility for the funds),

Now therefore be it resolved that:

Northwest IL Workforce Partnership shall be designated to function as the fiscal agent and fulfill the role of grant recipient in local Workforce Investment Area 4. Northwest IL Workforce Partnership shall assume primary responsibility for any disallowance as part of a grant or contract for the provision of fiscal service and shall be held liable for these funds by the CEOs. However, the CEOs recognize that this designation does not absolve the CEOs of their collective financial liability to the state for WIA funds. In the event the Northwest Illinois Workforce Partnership must obtain funds from the counties for any such repayment, the amount shall be distributed among the five counties on a percentage basis.

- I. The signatory agent of the Chief Elected Officials shall be the Chairperson of the Whiteside County Board.
- II. The Chairperson of the Whiteside County Board appoints the director of the Northwest IL Workforce Partnership.
- III. The fiscal agent is delegated the power and responsibility to enter into contracts, subcontracts, and other such agreements; to receive, expend, and distribute funds, to develop and evaluate procedures for fiscal management, and to hire, organize, and train appropriate staff.
- IV. The Chairperson of the Whiteside County Board shall receive for consideration the actions taken by the Workforce Investment Board, and shall consult with, and receive input from the Chairpersons of the Boards of Carroll, Jo Daviess, Ogle, and Stephenson Counties relative to the concurrence of those actions. The Chief Elected Officials must concur in the planning and development of programs and services provided for under the Act.
- V. The director of the Northwest IL Workforce Partnership shall be responsible for developing procedures for the program planning, evaluation, and quality improvement systems on behalf of the Chief Elected Officials. The director shall be the official representative of the Chief Elected Officials to the Workforce Investment Board. The director shall also assist the Workforce Investment Board in these activities as needed and requested by the Board.

VI. Communication and approval procedures will be developed in conjunction with the Workforce Investment Board regarding those responsibilities shared by both the Chief Elected Officials and Workforce Investment Board. This Agreement will be modified to reflect those agreements.

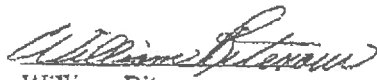
VII. SIGNATURES:

 Tony Arduini
 Chairman
 Whiteside County Board

 Boyd Boyer
 Chairman
 Stephenson County Board

 Jerry Daws
 Chairman
 Ogle County Board

 William McFadden
 Chairman
 Jo Daviess County Board


 William Ritenour
 Chairman
 Carroll County Board