



# Montana Department of LABOR & INDUSTRY

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## Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Regional Designation Policy

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10 **Background:** The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) requires states to identify planning  
11 regions. The designation of regions assists with service strategies, sector initiatives, and labor market data to  
12 ensure consistent and coordinated service delivery.

13 Under a currently approved waiver from the US Department of Labor (USDOL), Montana operates as a single-  
14 area planning state and therefore, the state board acts as the local boards.

15 **Scope:** This policy applies to the State Workforce Innovation Board (SWIB) and the workforce region(s) in  
16 Montana.

### 17 Policy:

#### 18 General Considerations

- 19 • When designating regions, the Governor must consult with local workforce development boards and  
20 chief elected officials to consider the following:
  - 21 ○ Labor Market Information
  - 22 ○ Economic Development Areas
  - 23 ○ Possession of federal and non-federal resources, including education and training institutions,  
24 to administer activities under 29 USC Chapter 32, Subchapter 1, Part B.
- 25 • Other factors to consider:
  - 26 ○ Populations centers
  - 27 ○ Commuting patterns
  - 28 ○ Land ownership
  - 29 ○ Industrial composition
  - 30 ○ Location quotients
  - 31 ○ Labor force conditions and
  - 32 ○ Geographic boundaries

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## 34 Montana's Regional Designation

35 All service delivery planning and strategic visioning occurs at the state level with local input through service  
36 delivery partners and the SWIB. For the purpose of statewide planning, the Montana Labor Market Information  
37 (LMI) team collects and provides current labor market data and analysis related to economic conditions for the  
38 various workforce regions. The data includes existing and emerging in-demand industry sectors and  
39 occupations; and the potential needs of Montana employers. For in-demand industry sectors, initiatives are  
40 implemented through a statewide network of business engagement specialists.

41 All administrative funding, service delivery coordination, policy development and federal reporting occur on a  
42 statewide level. With a large geographic state that includes vast remote areas, the service delivery across the  
43 state benefits from statewide planning. As such, Montana has designated the entire state as one planning  
44 region.

## 45 References:

- 46 • [Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act \(WIOA\) sec. 101\(d\)](#)
- 47 • [20 CFR 679.210 Requirements for Identifying a Region](#)
- 48 • [20 CFR 679.510 Requirements for Regional Planning](#)