

Workforce Investment Board Options for Selecting a One Stop Operator

Overview

The Workforce Investment Act permits Workforce Investment Boards to hire “executive staff” to support the boards informational and management capacities. The executive staff develop reports, arrange for board meetings, develop grant proposals and to oversee the daily activities of the “One Stop Operator.”

The Workforce Investment Act *requires* all WIBs to have a “One Stop Operator” to administer workforce investment activities within the local area. In Indiana, these one stop operators administer the activities that take place within WorkOne offices. It will be necessary for each of the new WIB to select a One Stop Operator.

In many cases nationally, the One Stop Operator is a separately-procured entity—either a nonprofit organization or for-profit business. However, the Workforce Investment Act contains a provision allowing a WIB’s executive staff to function simultaneously as the One Stop Operator. This stipulation of the act is permissive, contingent upon formal approval of the governor and establishment of a written agreement between the governor and the chief elected official of the workforce service area.

As advisory board to the governor, the SWIC is asked to deliberate the question: should it recommend to the governor the practice of allowing WIB executive staff to serve dually as the One Stop Operator for the workforce service area? If so, should the practice be encouraged as the new WIBs form?

Recommendation of the Executive Committee

- The SWIC should recommend to the governor that he entertain requests from chief elected officials of the workforce service areas allowing the WIB’s executive staff to serve as the WIB’s One Stop Operator;
- The SWIC should recommend to the WIBs that their executive staff serve as One Stop Operators, rather than competitively procuring a separate entity or designate a consortium of One Stop Partners;
- DWD shall provide guidance on how WIBs can avoid potential conflict of interest while serving as the One Stop Operator; and
- DWD shall provide the information the governor would request in order to establish an agreement with the local chief elected official allowing the WIB’s executive staff to serve as the One Stop Operator.