Local Elected Official Designation

Primary Issue
In order to establish workforce service areas, an area must have the local elected officials designate a chief elected official for that area
• State needs to provide guidance as to who is considered as a “local elected official” within local workforce service areas

Suggested Policy
Definition of Local Elected Official
For purposes of establishing workforce service areas and local workforce investment boards, local elected officials will be defined as:

“The chief elected executive officer of all counties and incorporated cities and towns with a population exceeding 5,000 within the local workforce service area.”

Options for Designating a Chief Elected Official
New workforce service areas would be provided with two options for designating their CEO:
1. All local elected officials sign a single agreement designating a single CEO for the workforce service area; or
   o This option may appeal to areas with fewer local elected officials;
2. Local elected officials within a county sign a document designating a county chief elected official, and the county chief elected officials sign a document designating the CEO for the entire workforce service area.
   o This option may appeal to areas with a greater number of local elected officials, minimizing the number of signatures that must be obtained for a single document

Considerations
• WIA mandates that each workforce service area have a chief elected official
  o Chief elected official defined as, “The chief elected executive officer of a unit of general local government within a local workforce investment service area.”
  o General Unit of Local Government defined as, “Any general purpose political subdivision of Indiana that has the power to levy taxes and spend funds, as well as general corporate and police powers.”
• When reorganization occurred in 2005-2006, State law was established to identify how Regional Workforce Board members would be appointed by elected officials
  o State law currently identifies local elected officials within the regional workforce system as “(1) an elected executive of a second or third class city that has a population of at least five thousand (5,000) and is located in a regional workforce area; or (2) an elected member of the executive body of a county.”
The current definition excludes elected executive officers of incorporated towns, which includes a number of relatively large municipalities, including:

- Brownsburg (pop. 20,644)
- Clarksville (pop. 22,190)
- Fishers (pop. 71,052)
- Highland (pop. 22,594)
- Merrillville (pop. 33,416)
- Munster (pop. 22,054)
- Plainfield (pop. 28,527)
- Westfield (pop. 22,402)

This policy will not apply to economic growth regions with regional workforce boards:

- I.C. 22-4.5-2-5.5 defines “local elected officials” for purposes of economic growth regions and regional workforce boards

**Action**

DWD will write and publish policy containing this definition and will provide direction and technical assistance to local elected officials and to local areas. Local areas seeking WIB designation will need to establish local elected official agreements including the chief elected executive officers for any cities or towns with a population of at least 5,000 and all counties.