



Department of
Job and Family Services

John R. Kasich, Governor

Cynthia C. Dungey, Director

June 8, 2016

To: John Trott, Ohio Workforce Board Directors Association
Joel Potts, Ohio Job and Family Services Directors' Association
Suzanne Dulaney, County Commissioners' Association of Ohio

Re: DOL communications and local workforce board authority

Thank you for collaborating to find a new way to work for low-income Ohioans. Beginning July 1, the Comprehensive Case Management and Employment Program (CCMEP) will provide a common framework for delivering case management, employment and supportive services, starting with low-income 16- to 24-year-olds where early intervention can help break the cycle of poverty.

This innovative new effort leverages resources from the public assistance and workforce systems by integrating two federal programs:

- The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) youth program, administered by the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL); and
- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, administered by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

We believe that the alignment of workforce and public assistance programs is the best way to help more low-income Ohioans find and keep jobs. That is why we have been engaged with the DOL and HHS about our plans since early 2015.

CCMEP has been designed as a workforce program. Even though it brings two funding sources together, the program's framework follows WIOA law and requirements. Ohio's innovative use of workforce funds to help low-income youth is allowable under the DOL rules and consistent with the changes Congress made in its 2014 reauthorization of the workforce law.

Maintaining the autonomy and authority of the local area workforce boards is an important pillar of WIOA and central to the boards' role in building strong relationships with local employers and providing employment and training services in their communities. Even though CCMEP maintains the workforce boards' authority, as an added measure, we decided to allow local boards to choose to participate in CCMEP through a formal resolution.

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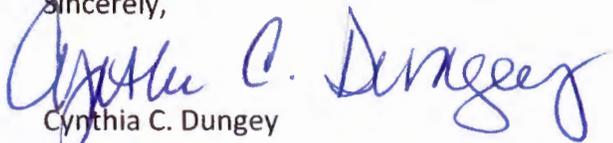
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When your local area authorizes its participation in CCMEP and fully complies with its terms, should there be any adverse federal audit finding, the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services will not exercise the state's discretion to pass that finding onto your local area.

Also, in the interest of transparency, we are sharing all of our correspondence with DOL. We will continue to work with our local and federal partners as we implement this program.

I hope this letter answers any final questions that have been raised. Together we can look forward to implementing this program as a model of innovation for serving low-income youth.

Sincerely,



Cynthia C. Dungey

Director

Ohio Department of Job and Family Services