

Authorization of Use of WIOA Youth Funds Frequently Asked Questions

If a workforce development board chooses not to participate, what does that mean?

We hope that all area workforce boards choose to authorize Work Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Youth funds for the Comprehensive Case Management and Employment Program (CCMEP). However, if a workforce development board chooses not to participate, CCMEP will not be run in any of the counties in that workforce area. The law authorizing CCMEP requires that both TANF and WIOA Youth funds be available to operate the program. As a result, the counties within that workforce area will not be allocated any TANF funds dedicated to CCMEP.

What happens to the WIOA Youth money in an area that chooses not to participate?

That workforce area will operate a WIOA Youth program only, as designed by the board.

What is the deadline for the resolution?

The resolution must be submitted by Sept. 30. In the interim, we need a letter of intent to commit or the decision to decline participation by June 15. This letter can be signed by the board chair or the workforce board director with the chair's approval. Please submit to: CCMEPQNA@jfs.ohio.gov. Sample letter and resolution can be found [here](#).

What if my board doesn't meet by that deadline?

Each area workforce board must provide the state with a letter of intent to commit or the decision to decline participation by June 15. If we don't hear from you, only WIOA Youth funds can be released.

Is there a legal mandate that counties operate CCMEP if the workforce development board chooses not to participate?

If the workforce development board decides not to designate their WIOA funds to CCMEP, the county will not be required to administer CCMEP. The law states that "to the extent funds under the TANF block grant and Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act are available, the program shall make employment and training services specified in division (E) of this section available to the program's participants in accordance with the comprehensive assessments of the participants' employment and training needs conducted under that division." (Ohio Revised Code section 305.190)

What is the responsibility for serving 16- to 24-year-olds receiving Ohio Works First (OWF) in my county if the workforce development board does not authorize use of WIOA Youth funds for CCMEP?

If the workforce development board decides not to authorize their WIOA Youth funds for CCMEP, the county will not be required to administer CCMEP. County departments of job and family services would continue to serve 16-to-24-year-old OWF work-required recipients the same way they currently do with an appraisal, assessment and development of a self-sufficiency contract. These recipients also would be included in the county's work participation rate.

Is there any liability with respect to the Department of Labor if a workforce board authorizes use of WIOA Youth funds for CCMEP?

This is not about allowable uses of funds for CCMEP. In CCMEP, all WIOA Youth funds would be used for WIOA-eligible activities for WIOA-eligible individuals. The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services has authority to set state priorities for the use of WIOA Youth funds. The program was designed under state law, is modeled after the WIOA Youth program, and has adopted many of the WIOA Youth program's policies and measures.

How does this additional requirement affect the county plans?

Assuming the workforce board proceeds with authorization of funds, this new requirement has no impact on the existing CCMEP deadlines, including the May 31 deadline to submit county plans.

How does this resolution affect my area's/county's progress in implementing CCMEP?

Assuming the workforce board proceeds with authorization of funds, the resolution does not impact your work. It provides formal authorization to use WIOA Youth funds for the new Comprehensive Case Management and Employment Program.

Why are we learning about this now?

We engaged the Department of Labor about CCMEP in early 2015; however, we did not hear back until mid-March of this year. Since that time, we have been in conversation with Department of Labor about CCMEP and have determined that local workforce development boards have the additional responsibility to formally authorize the use of WIOA Youth funds for CCMEP.

What happens to the TANF dollars that were allocated to those areas that opt out?

We hope that all area workforce boards choose to authorize WIOA Youth funds for CCMEP. Any unallocated TANF funds will be evaluated.

What if my county already has designated the lead agency and/or submitted its county plan for CCMEP?

Lead agency designations and county plans will not be impacted in those workforce areas that provide authorization to use WIOA Youth funds for CCMEP. Should a workforce area decline use of funds, CCMEP will not operate in that area, and any lead agency designation and county plan would become null and void.

FOR FISCAL AGENTS: What happens to my workforce area's CCMEP WIOA Youth and CCMEP TANF allocations if the area decides not to participate in CCMEP?

If a workforce area decides not to participate in CCMEP, ODJFS will disburse the area's WIOA funding only to its fiscal agent at the start of program year 2016, or July 2016. This allocation will be named WIOA Youth, instead of CCMEP WIOA Youth, and will follow all applicable WIOA program and fiscal rules established by the agency. Sub-area counties in an area that is not participating in CCMEP will not receive the CCMEP TANF allocations regardless of which agency has been named as lead agency.