
NORTHERN MIDDLE TENNESSEE LOCAL WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

Stakeholder Involvement

The Northern Middle Tennessee Local Workforce Development Board began preparation of the local WIOA plan, as outlined in the State's policy the first week of April. However, partner collaboration and planning is an on-going activity in Northern Middle.

The Board staff conducted a scan of the requirements as well as a timeline needed to be implemented to deliver the document as per the policy on June 30 to the state Department of Labor and Workforce Development. The plan is comprised into three sectors and requires a public comment period of 15 days. This, along with Board and CLEO approval required the plan to be developed in slightly over 60 days.

The NM Executive Director, as well as the NM Regional Director allocated sections and areas to be addressed to Board staff and partners. Working simultaneously, the local plan was aligned with the Middle Tennessee Regional WIOA plan and supports the overall Tennessee Combined WIOA Plan.

Further complicating the planning cycle was the COVID 19 pandemic which eliminated face-to-face meetings. Partners from Adult Education, TANF, Rapid Response, Workforce Services, Finance, Human Resources, and Fort Campbell were solicited to provide feedback on designated plan components. The Regional Director worked with the WIRED Unit to mine data and clarify questions concerning the plan. The team met every week concerning status and updates as well as developing parts of the regional and local plan.

The Northern Middle Workforce Board partnered with the Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce to conduct a comprehensive workforce study covering the Nashville and Clarksville MSA which includes 10 of the 13 counties in Northern Middle Workforce Region. In addition Northern Middle members participated in the Partnership 2030 initiative that has served as a regional strategy for economic development in the Nashville region. Specifically, Marla Rye, Northern Middle Board Executive Director, Dr. Kenyatta Lovett, Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development, local Economic Development partners, community stakeholders and employers participated in multiple strategic planning meetings.

In addition, the Board utilized the Vital Signs 2019 report that was released in May 2020. Vital Signs 2019 highlights five issues impacting the Middle Tennessee Region including 1.) Workforce Development, 2.) Transit / Transportation 3.) Housing 4.) Infrastructure 5.) Solid Waste

Highlights of the Workforce Development report include:

- The Clarksville and Nashville MSAs have significant untapped talent. Adults who could be trained or re-trained can provide a game-changing pipeline of talent for existing and new businesses, as well as provide life-changing opportunities for Middle Tennessee residents.
- The continued expansion of automation and artificial intelligence will change the nature of many existing, well-paid jobs. This new reality requires action across the region to prepare workers to thrive in this new environment.

Employer feedback was critical to plan development and was solicited in an employer survey and in the Partnership 2030 meetings.

Timeline of Northern Middle Partner and Planning Meetings 2019-2020:

Meeting	Date
NMTLWDB Meeting	August 14, 2019
NM Partner Meeting	September 5, 2019
Partnership 2030	October 15, 2019
NM Partner Meeting	November 5, 2019
NMTLWDB Meeting	November 13, 2019
Partnership 2030	December 18, 2019
Partnership 2030	January 16, 2020
NM Partner Meeting	February 5, 2020
NMTLWDB Meeting	February 12, 2020
Partnership 2030	February 12, 2020
Partnership 2030	March 12, 2020
Employer & Board Survey	April 17, 2020
NM Partner Meeting	May 6, 2020 (virtual)
NMTLWDB Meeting	June 10, 2020 (virtual)
Partner's Final Review	June 10, 2020 to June 12, 2020
Public Comment Period	June 12, 2020 to June 27, 2020

The NMTWB held a public comment webinar for interested stakeholders on June 24, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. No comments were received.

Public Comments from the Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development, as well as AJC State Partners have been addressed and are designated by red text.