

Workforce Innovation in Regional Economic Development (WIRED) Initiative Evaluation Site Visit Topic Guide: Second and Third Round Visits

Background Information: Respondents cannot be promised confidentiality but interviewers will advise them that opinions and impressions they provide during the interviews will be used only for analyzing the general trends and directions of strategic planning, implementation, collaboration and partnership development within their respective regions and across regions. Individual respondents will not be identified in study reports except with their express permission. The information they provide will be kept in confidence unless required by the Freedom of Information Act or necessary for litigation or legal proceedings.

Public reporting burden for the collection of information is estimated to average 45 minutes per response, including the time for discussing the procedures for the interview and responding to the questions. The obligation to respond is voluntary. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to the Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration, Office of Policy Development and Research, Room N-5641, attn: Eileen Pederson, 200 Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20210.

The site visit questions are organized by the 12 key topics outlined below. The first section includes only the overarching questions for each topic. The second section includes more detailed questions and/or probes, as well as the interview respondents for whom each question is appropriate.

Interviewer to Respondent: Thank you for participating in this data collection effort. We will use the opinions and impressions you provide only for analyzing the general trends and directions of strategic planning, implementation, collaboration and partnership development within your respective region and across regions. You will not be identified in study reports except with your express permission. **However, you should understand that we cannot promise confidentiality of the information you share with us due to our need to comply with provisions of the Freedom of Information Act and also in the event of unlikely but possible litigation or legal proceedings.** Now let us proceed.

1. Context of the WIRED Initiative

- a. Have the characteristics of the region's population and economy changed in the last year?
- b. What part does your organization play in the WIRED initiative? (for new partners)
- c. What is the structure of the Workforce Investment System in the region?

2. Goals of the WIRED Initiative

- a. Have the goals of your region's WIRED initiative changed over time?
- b. How has your view of what it means to have "transformation" as the ultimate goal of the WIRED initiative changed over time?

3. Planning the WIRED Initiative

- a. Has planning for the initiative changed in the last year? Process? Substance?

4. Structure of the WIRED Initiative

- a. Has the structure of the WIRED initiative changed over time?

5. Partnerships Within the WIRED Initiative

- a. Who are the key partners in the region's WIRED initiative? (e.g., workforce investment system; state, county, and local government agencies; local elected officials; Tribal nations; universities and colleges; K-12 schools and districts; employers; business and industry organizations; private training providers; labor organizations; banks and other investors; philanthropists; providers of business services such as accountants, law firms, etc]; economic development organizations; entrepreneurs; representatives from the arts community; the media)
- b. How have the roles of existing partners changed over the last year?

6. Collaboration Within the WIRED Initiative

- a. How do the partners in the WIRED initiative work together towards achieving the goals of the initiative?
- b. (Social Networking) Who do you interact with in the areas of economic development, workforce development, education, etc., as a result of the WIRED initiative?

7. Activities of the WIRED Initiative

- a. What strategies and activities have you developed to achieve the goals of the WIRED initiative?

8. Funding for Regional Transformation

- a. In addition to the WIRED funding, what are the sources of funding for regional transformation, and how are these funds spent?

9. Challenges and Successes of the WIRED Initiative

- a. What challenges has the region met and what successes has it achieved?

10. Innovations of the WIRED Initiative

- a. What innovations has the WIRED initiative accomplished or supported?

11. Evaluating Success of the WIRED Initiative

- a. How is the region assessing and documenting the success of its efforts?
- b. What, if any, signs of progress do you see?

12. Sustainability of WIRED Efforts

- a. What plans does the region have for long-term sustainability of the goals, activities and strategic planning of the WIRED initiative?

Context of the WIRED Initiative	CATEGORY OF RESPONDENT														
	Project/Program					Leaders / Members of Partnership									
	Project Director/ Manager	Director/CEO of Grantee	Board/ Oversight	Project Staff	Fiscal Staff	Govt. Agencies	Local Elected Officials	Workforce & Training	Economic Development	Education (K-12, College)	University/ Research	Business & Industry	Labor	Investors	Other Stakeholders
What is the structure of the Workforce Investment System in the region?															
How many local Workforce Investment Boards (WIBs) are active in WIRED?	X		X	X		X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
What organizations staff the local WIBs?	X			X				X							
How many comprehensive One-Stop Career Centers are in the region?	X			X				X	X		X				
Who operates the One-Stop Career Centers, and how are operators selected?								X							
<i>(for regions with K-12 talent development activities)</i> What organizations provide WIA youth services? Where are these services provided?	X			X				X		X					
Have WIBs in the region collaborated with each other in the past? With other entities? On what types of efforts?	X			X				X							
How many WIA customers enrolled in training in each of the local areas in the region during the three years before WIRED was implemented? How has that changed since WIRED started?								X							
What were the predominant types of training that local WIBs supported in the three years before WIRED was implemented? How has that changed since WIRED started?								X							
Does the state Workforce Investment Agency have any policies that specifically impact the implementation of WIRED? What are they and how do they affect WIRED?	X			X				X							

Planning the WIRED Initiative	CATEGORY OF RESPONDENT														
Did the revised plan represent a reorientation of goals and activities, or was it an opportunity to bring the plan into line with what the WIRED partners were already doing?	X		X	X	X										

Partnerships Within the WIRED Initiative	CATEGORY OF RESPONDENT														
	Project/Program					Leaders / Members of Partnership									
Who are the key partners in the region's WIRED Initiative?	Project Director/ Manager	Director/CEO of Grantee	Board/ Oversight	Project Staff	Fiscal Staff	Govt. Agencies	Local Elected Officials	Workforce & Training	Economic Development	Education (K-12, College)	University/ Research	Business & Industry	Labor	Investors	Other Stakeholders
How does the region define who is a "partner?"	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Who are the key partners in the region's WIRED initiative? Have the partners changed over time? Why?	X	X	X	X			X	X	X	X	X	X			
If new organizations have joined the partnership, how were they identified as potential partners? Why weren't they included in initial planning? Why have they been added? What was the process for incorporating new organizations into the partnership? Have new partners affected the way WIRED operates? Why and how?	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
If organizations have left, why did they leave? How have these departures affected the partnership? Do partners that left the Initiative still otherwise participate in workforce investment and/or economic development in the region?	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Have the roles of the various partners in the WIRED initiative changed over time? How?	X		X	X				X	X						
Have the WIRED partners maintained their contributions of time and resources to the WIRED initiative? If not, how have these changed?	X		X	X	X										
Has the involvement of partners from the workforce investment system changed over time? Why and how?	X		X	X				X							
• What are the specific roles of the local WIBs in the WIRED initiative? Have they changed over time? Have changes supported talent development in the WIRED framework?	X		X	X				X							
• Have WIB structures changed in any way under this Initiative, to operate on a more regional basis? Are they composed of regional strategic partners? If so, do they align spending with a regional economic vision for talent development?	X		X	X				X							

Activities of the WIRED Initiative	CATEGORY OF RESPONDENT														
	Project/Program					Leaders / Members of Partnership									
	Project Director/ Manager	Director/CEO of Grantee	Board/ Oversight	Project Staff	Fiscal Staff	Govt. Agencies	Local Elected Officials	Workforce & Training	Economic Development	Education (K-12, College)	University/ Research	Business & Industry	Labor	Investors	Other Stakeholders
What strategies and activities have you developed to achieve the goals of the WIRED Initiative?															
• Efforts to increase coordination between targeted industries and the education and talent development systems?	X		X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
• Efforts to increase leadership development?	X		X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
• Efforts to increase coordination with the education system?	X		X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X				
• Capacity-building activities.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Is the region working with any of the WIRED Initiative's national partners that have been introduced through WIRED Academies or ETA Leads? (e.g., MEP, NIST, Departments of Defense and Energy national labs, NSF's Advanced Technical Education program, the Agricultural Research Service, Department of Transportation, etc.)	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			

