**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Date: 4/14/2023

The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) (Pub. L. 113-128) is a federal law enacted in 2014 to reform and modernize the public workforce system. It replaced the Workforce Investment Act. WIOA requires Governors to designate local and regional workforce development areas, and requires these areas to create local and regional workforce development plans. The Northeast Ohio Workforce (NOW) region was designated as a WIOA Region and is comprised of the eight counties of Lorain, Cuyahoga, Lake, Geauga, Ashtabula, Portage, Summit and Medina. There are five distinct Workforce Development Areas with their Boards (WDBs) within this Region: Ohio Workforce Areas 2 (Summit/Medina), 3 (Cleveland/Cuyahoga), 4 (Lorain), 5 (Lake), and 19 (Ashtabula, Geauga, Portage).

WIOA was the first federal workforce development law to require a regional plan in addition to local workforce plans. In 2021, the first Northeast Ohio Workforce (NOW) plan was produced and approved by the state for a four-year period. It is now due for 2nd Year Modifications.

The regional plan has been refined slightly since the earlier version from 2021 to reflect the changes coming out of the pandemic, updated statistics, and the addition of a comprehensive and inciteful workforce study named, “Where are the Workers?”, conducted by our partnering workforce development boards. Additionally, each workforce development area updated its local plan, and these are attached and incorporated into the regional plan. Once approved, all will be in effect until June 2025.

The public can view both plans at <https://www.lakecountyohio.gov/ohiomeansjobs/workforce-development-board/>. Comments on the NOW Regional Plan and the Lake County Local Plan can be sent to nowregion@gmail.com