

## **Regional Plan for Greater Metropolitan Workforce Council**

Our vision is to provide all residents of our region opportunities to attain family supporting careers while meeting the needs of employers who fuel our economy.

Our priority is ensuring access to economic opportunity for people of color, immigrants, people with disabilities, and others whose talents, skills and abilities are necessary to the continued economic vitality of our region.

Through effective partnerships and engaged stakeholders, the region will produce a skilled workforce that meets employers' needs and contributes to a strong regional economy that provides prosperity for all.

To guide and elevate our region's public sector workforce development system, we are establishing a new governance structure between the six workforce development areas. This Board will include chief local elected officials from each Workforce Development Area, the chairs from each Workforce Development Area and additional representatives from the business and philanthropic communities.

The regional workforce governance board will be a strong voice on workforce development for the metro area. The primary charge of the regional board is to identify strategic opportunities where the public sector workforce system can lead or support initiatives that meet the needs of dual customers—business and job seekers.

A key value of the new regional governing structure is to develop and implement strategies that deliver employment and advancement for people experiencing barriers to employment. To do so, the new structure will strengthen local Workforce Development Board membership as well as ensure that sector partnerships include diverse voices and include organizations with particular expertise serving diverse populations. Regional workforce leaders understand that this engagement is critical to success and that lines of communication must be significantly opened and improved.

The region will be working to provide residents in the region an opportunity to enter the talent development pipeline and progress into economic self-sufficiency by:

- Providing opportunities for individuals to attain economic self-sufficiency through strategies that address skills gaps, housing and transportation barriers.
- Addressing and helping to mitigate workforce system limitations and workplace issues for those experiencing economic and racial disparities, particularly for African Americans and Native Americans
- Ensuring that businesses have access to a skilled workforce and talent pool of racially diverse employees that have the competencies needed to make them globally competitive and,
- Aligning formal and informal partners to ensure workforce development, education and training resources achieve maximum benefit for individuals and businesses in the region.

The regional board is committed to creating and sustaining high performing sector partnerships including ensuring active employer leadership, a focus on outcomes for both customers, focusing on sectors where there is opportunity for people with low skills to gain employment and advance through career pathways, and utilizing industry-recognized credentials. The six sectors identified are: Information Technology, Construction, Manufacturing, Healthcare, Government, and Professional/Business Services.

