

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE CODE SECTION 14020

14020. (a) The California Workforce Investment Board, in collaboration with state and local partners, including the Chancellor of the California Community Colleges, the State Department of Education, other appropriate state agencies, and local workforce investment boards, shall develop a strategic workforce plan to serve as a framework for the development of public policy, fiscal investment, and operation of all state labor exchange, workforce education, and training programs to address the state's economic, demographic, and workforce needs. The strategic workforce plan shall also serve as the framework for the single state plan required by the federal Workforce Investment Act of 1998. The plan shall be updated at least every five years.

(b) The state shall develop a California Industry Sector Initiative that will serve as the cornerstone of the state plan and provide a framework for state workforce investments and support for sector strategies.

(c) The California Workforce Investment Board shall work collaboratively with state and local partners to identify ways to eliminate systemwide barriers and better align and leverage federal, state, and local Workforce Investment Act funding streams and policies to develop, support, and sustain regional alliances of employers and workforce and education professionals who are working to improve the educational pipeline, establish well-articulated career pathways, provide industry-recognized credentials and certificates, and address the career advancement needs of current and future workers in competitive and emergent industry sectors and clusters. The California Workforce Investment Board and its partners shall work collaboratively to maximize state and local investments and pursue other resources to address the skills-gap needs identified pursuant to paragraph (3) of subdivision (d).

(d) In order to support the requirement of the plans in subdivision (a), the California Workforce Investment Board shall do the following:

(1) Annually identify industry sectors and industry clusters that have a competitive economic advantage and demonstrated economic importance to the state and its regional economies. In developing this analysis, the California Workforce Investment Board shall consider the expertise of local workforce investment boards in the state's respective regional economies and shall encourage the local workforce investment boards to identify industry sectors and industry clusters that have a competitive economic advantage and demonstrated economic importance in their respective local workforce investment areas.

(2) Annually identify new dynamic emergent industry sectors and industry clusters with substantial potential to generate new jobs and income growth for the state and its regional economies. In developing this analysis, the California Workforce Investment Board shall consider the expertise of local workforce investment boards in the state's respective regional economies and shall encourage the local workforce investment boards to identify new dynamic emergent industry sectors and industry clusters with substantial potential to generate new jobs and income growth in their respective local workforce investment areas.

(3) Provide an annual skills-gap analysis enumerating occupational and skills shortages in the industry sectors and industry clusters identified as having strategic importance to the state's economy and its regional economies. In developing this analysis, the California Workforce Investment Board shall consider the expertise of local workforce investment boards in the state's respective regional economies and shall encourage the local workforce investment boards to conduct skills-gap analysis for their respective local workforce investment areas. Skills-gap analysis for the state and its regional economies shall use labor market data to specify a list of

high-priority, in-demand occupations for the state and its regional economies. This list shall be used to inform investment decisions and eligible training provider policies.

(4) Establish, with input from local workforce investment boards and other stakeholders, initial and subsequent eligibility criteria for the federal Workforce Investment Act of 1998 eligible training provider list that effectively directs training resources into training programs leading to employment in high-demand, high-priority, and occupations that provide economic security, particularly those facing a shortage of skilled workers. The subsequent eligibility criteria, to the extent feasible, shall use performance and outcome measures to determine whether a provider is qualified to remain on the list. At a minimum, initial and subsequent eligibility criteria shall consider the following:

(A) The relevance of the training program to the workforce needs of the state's strategic industry sectors and industry clusters.

(B) The need to plug skills gaps and skills shortages in the economy, including skills gaps and skills shortages at the state and regional level.

(C) The need to plug skills gaps and skills shortages in local workforce investment areas.

(D) The likelihood that the training program will lead to job placement in a job providing economic security or job placement in an entry-level job that has a well-articulated career pathway or career ladder to a job providing economic security.

(E) The need for basic skills and bridge training programs that provide access to occupational skills training for individuals with barriers to employment and those who would otherwise be unable to enter occupational skills training.

(F) To the extent feasible, utilize criteria that measure training and education provider performance, including, but not limited to, the following:

(i) Measures of skills or competency attainment.

(ii) Measures relevant to program completion, including measures of course, certificate, degree, licensure, and program of study rate of completion.

(iii) For those entering the labor market, measures of employment placement and retention.

(iv) For those continuing in training or education, measures of educational or training progression.

(v) For those who have entered the labor market, measures of income, including wage measures.

(G) The division of labor for making initial and subsequent eligibility determinations under this division shall be modeled on the division of labor envisioned in the federal Workforce Investment Act of 1998 in that the state board shall establish, with input from local workforce investment boards and other stakeholders, the initial and subsequent eligibility procedures and criteria utilized by local workforce investment boards to assess training provider performance. The local boards shall have the authority to place and retain training providers on the list, and shall provide relevant performance data pertaining to the training provider criteria established pursuant to this division to a state agency designated by the Governor. The relevant state agency shall also have the authority to remove training providers for nonperformance, provided they do not meet the performance criteria established pursuant to this division.

(H) If the state receives a waiver from the federal subsequent eligibility provisions specified in the federal Workforce Investment Act of 1998, the state workforce investment board shall establish its own subsequent eligibility criteria that take into account all of the criteria specified in subparagraphs (A) to (G), inclusive.