



2022 REGIONAL PLAN MODIFICATION REVIEW

East Region (Northeast TN, East TN, Southeast TN)	
2022 Plan Modification Recommendation	Approval

The Tennessee Department of Labor & Workforce Development, Division of Workforce Services, has completed the review of the East Regional Plan Modification submitted during the 2022 Regional Plan Modification Process. The 2022 Regional Plan Modification Process required the Regional Planning Committee to respond to questions and update the 2020 Regional Plan regarding regional labor market and economic conditions, regional approaches to service delivery and employer engagement strategies, workforce partners’ collaborative efforts, and innovative regional practices.

Based on this review, the 2022 East Regional Plan has **satisfied** the minimum compliance criteria outlined in the 2022 Regional and Local Plan Modification Guidance, released January 31, 2022. The Division of Workforce Services **recommends approval** of the Regional Plan Modification by the State Workforce Development Board.

The Division of Workforce Services commends the following strategies identified in the 2022 Regional Plan Modification.
REGIONAL COMMENDATIONS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identified opportunities to streamline policies across local areas, including a review of LWDB Supportive Services Policies with the intent to create a consistent regional policy • Highlighted utilization of Department resources through consistent regional approaches and strategies, including the use of Coursera as an alternative to traditional incumbent worker training • Highlighted the “Five Rivers Partnership” and “Future Ready Pathway 2.0” as a local area initiative which could be a potential regional approach and strategy to engage youth and provide additional career services and pathways • Utilization of specialized American Job Centers in rural, at-risk, and distressed counties and to support justice-involved individuals in State and Local correctional facilities

The Division of Workforce Services observed the following which may require additional information and/or technical assistance to ensure compliance during implementation of the 2022 Regional Plan Modification.
REGIONAL OBSERVATIONS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Generally, the Regional Plan Modification remained “high-level” and overarching and did not detail the specific regional partnerships and strategies which will drive alignment of the East Region LWDBs. Several strategies identified within the Regional Plan are local area initiatives and do not appear to be implemented consistently across the region. • Additional information will be requested and/or technical assistance may be necessary to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ detail outcomes and goals related to the use of technology connecting partners across the workforce system ○ ensure consistent service delivery, training opportunities, and enhanced performance and reporting structures across the region and not individual LWDBs ○ identify strategies and resources to measure the health of the region, including return on regional investments, meeting emerging workforce needs, and creating programming and strategies to reach vulnerable populations across the region