



Hennepin-Carver Workforce Development Board

Hennepin-Carver Workforce Development Board

Action Request: 2026-8

Topic: WIOA Local and Regional Plans

Board Meeting Date: September 15th, 2026

Item Description

Approval of Regional and Local Plan draft for Hennepin-Carver Local Workforce Development Area #9 (Metropolitan Regional Workforce Development Area #4).

Action Needed

A motion (and second) to approve the Regional and Local Plan draft and move it forward to the Hennepin County Board and the Carver County Board for approval and submission to Governor of the State of Minnesota as required by the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA).

Allow staff to incorporate public comment as necessary, acquire signatures and make any technical corrections necessary prior to submission. Approval for staff to make modifications to the plans as may be required by the state during the 90-day review period from 10/2/2026 – 12/31/2026.

Note: LWDA #9 has received an extension through November 20th, 2026 to allow for the County Board to hold a public hearing, conduct a full 30-day public comment period, and to approve the draft of the RWDA #4 Regional Plan.

Background

Under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), each State or Territory must submit a Unified or Combined State Plan to the U.S. Department of Labor outlining a three-year strategy for its workforce development system. This publicly funded system operates through a national network of federal, state, regional, and local entities that provide employment, education, training, and related services to help job seekers secure quality jobs and support businesses with the skilled workers they need.

Aligned with the State Plan, each local workforce development board must submit a three-year Regional and Local Plan.

For Local Workforce Development Area (LWDA) #9, the Hennepin-Carver Workforce Development Board (HCWDB), working with the chief elected official, has prepared the Local Plan required under WIOA for submission to the Governor.

At the regional level, Local Workforce Development Boards within each designated planning region must also submit a WIOA Regional Plan. HCWDB is a member of the Metropolitan Regional Workforce Development Area (RWDA) #4, along with the Workforce Development Boards of Ramsey County, the City of Minneapolis, Dakota–Scott Counties, Washington County, and Anoka County. The Regional Plan ensures coordinated strategies, aligned priorities, and a shared vision for meeting the workforce needs of employers and job seekers across the region.

The Local Plan was drafted by HCWDB Director Erik Aamoth, staff from Hennepin and Carver Counties, and partner program staff. HCWDB members received a draft of both the Local and Regional Plans for review prior to the September 15, 2026 HCWDB meeting. Consistent with federal and state guidance, the plan has been posted by both counties for public comment.

The Local Board Chair (Andrea Erickson) and LWDA 9's WIOA-designated Local Elected Official (Hennepin County

Commissioner Irene Fernando) must sign the plan before it is submitted. Approval is requested from the HCWDB so the plan can be forwarded to the Hennepin and Carver County Boards. The final plan is due to the Governor by October 2, 2026. The Governor's Workforce Development Board (GWDB) State, Local, and Regional Plan Special Committee will review the plan and may request modifications from LWDA #9 or RWDA #4 by December 31, 2026.

Note: LWDA #9 has received an extension through November 20th, 2026 to allow for the County Board to hold a public hearing, conduct a full 30-day public comment period, and to approve the draft of the RWDA #4 Regional Plan.

Attachments

Hennepin-Carver Local Workforce Development Area #9 WIOA Local Plan and Metropolitan Regional Workforce Development Area #4 WIOA Regional Plan