



WDB Member Frequently Asked Questions

1. Is the Workforce Development Board an advisory board?

No. An advisory board typically oversees a specific agency or program and has greater involvement in operational activity. The Workforce Development Board (WDB) is a policy board that establishes the larger vision for employment and training services in the County based on economic conditions and trends. The WDB does not monitor any single agency, but rather a set of services delivered by multiple agencies in receipt of state and federal employment and training related funding.

2. Under what authority does the Workforce Development Board operate?

The WDB is authorized under federal legislation known as the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA). Local Workforce Development Areas are designated by the Governor and may involve multiple jurisdictions, based on labor market areas, usually geographically aligned. San Luis Obispo County has been designated as a single-county area. Local board members are appointed by the Chief Elected Official (County Board of Supervisors), based upon the recommendations of the WDB. A formal nomination must be received for an appointment to be considered.

3. If I am appointed to represent a specific partner, business sector, or other faction, what is my responsibility as a board member to my organization or the larger group that I represent?

The membership structure under the legislation is specific to ensure that local boards represent the interests of the broader community. You represent the interests of the sector (not your business/organization specifically) that you were appointed under, but only in terms of ensuring that the sector's needs are considered in the overall planning process. This does not mean that the sector you represent is given priority over another, only equal consideration. Furthermore, board members are expected to communicate information to and from others within their sector.

4. What should I do if a conflict develops that makes it impossible for me to regularly attend meetings?

All members are expected to personally appear at committee and board meetings to the fullest extent possible. If this cannot be accommodated most of the time, then the member should discuss this with the board chair and may be asked to submit a resignation so that the slot can be filled by someone else more able to fulfill their obligation to the WDB.

5. What is the staffing structure of the Workforce Development Board?

The San Luis Obispo County Department of Social Services (DSS), as the designated Administrative Entity and the Fiscal Agent for the WDB, assigns staff to support the WDB.