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Asa Hutchinson  
Governor  
Daryl E. Bassett  
Director

## Proposed Rule Summary

In accordance with Arkansas Code Annotated 25-15-218, the Arkansas Department of Workforce Services is proposing the following policy:

### **Local Workforce Development Area Designation**

The purpose of this policy is to announce the designation of the local workforce development areas within the State.

The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act requires that the Governor of the State shall designate local workforce development areas within the State through consultation with the State workforce development board; and after consultation with chief elected officials and local boards, and after consideration of comments received through the public comment process.

## AVAILABLE FOR COMMENT

### Designation of Local Workforce Development Areas

The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act requires that the Governor of the State shall designate local workforce development areas within the State through consultation with the State workforce development board; and after consultation with chief elected officials and local boards, and after consideration of comments received through the public comment process.

This document describes Governor Asa Hutchinson's plan for the initial designation of local workforce development areas in the State of Arkansas to be effective July 1, 2015 for purposes of service delivery under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA). Comments on this plan may be E-mailed to [wioa@arkansas.gov](mailto:wioa@arkansas.gov) or mailed to the Arkansas Department of Workforce Services, Office of Employment Assistance, Attn: WIOA Planning, P.O. Box 2981, Little Rock, Arkansas 72203.

### Initial Designation

For the purposes of WIOA, the ten local workforce investment areas established under the Workforce Investment Act (the predecessor program to WIOA) will be retained for initial designation for two years. By utilizing this already existing service delivery structure, the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act will be implemented in a more timely and efficient manner in the State. The Arkansas local workforce development areas (LWDA) will consist of the following geographic composition of counties.

**Central LWDA:** Faulkner, Lonoke, Monroe, Prairie, Pulaski (excluding the City of Little Rock), Saline

**City of Little Rock LWDA:** City Limits of Little Rock, Pulaski

**Eastern LWDA:** Cross, Crittenden, Lee, Phillips, St. Francis

**North Central LWDA:** Cleburne, Fulton, Jackson, Independence, Izard, Sharp, Stone, Van Buren, White, Woodruff

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**Northeast LWDA:** Clay, Craighead, Greene, Lawrence, Mississippi, Poinsett, Randolph

**Northwest LWDA:** Baxter, Benton, Boone, Carroll, Madison, Marion, Newton, Searcy, Washington

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**Southeast LWDA:** Arkansas, Ashley, Bradley, Chicot, Cleveland, Desha, Drew, Grant, Jefferson, Lincoln

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**Southwest LWDA:** Calhoun, Columbia, Dallas, Hempstead, Howard, Lafayette, Little River, Miller, Nevada, Ouachita, Sevier, Union

**West Central LWDA:** Clark, Conway, Garland, Hot Spring, Johnson, Montgomery, Perry, Pike, Pope, Yell

**Western LWDA:** Crawford, Franklin, Logan, Polk, Scott, Sebastian

### **Subsequent Designation**

After the period for which a local workforce development area is initially designated, the Governor shall approve a request for subsequent designation as a local area from such area, if such area:

- 1) Performed successfully during the preceding two years by meeting or exceeding the levels of performance negotiated for the local area;
- 2) Sustained fiscal integrity; and
- 3) In the case of a local workforce development area that is part of a planning region for purposes of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act met the requirements of the planning region during the two-year period of initial designation as described in Public Law 113-128 Sec 106(c)(1).