

Item Title: Approval of Request from Orange County Commissioners Requesting to Join Capital Area Workforce Development Board Local Area

Specific Action Requested:

That the Board of Commissioners accepts the request from Orange County Commissioners to become members of the Capital Area Workforce Development Board Local Area.

Item Summary:

Purpose: The Board of Commissioners approve Orange County joining the Capital Area Local Area; thereby expanding the workforce boards regional footprint effective July 1, 2023.

Background: Currently, Orange County is part of the Regional Partnership Workforce Board which provides workforce services to Alamance, Montgomery, Moore, Orange, and Randolph Counties. Regional Partnership's administrative entity is Regional Consolidated Services. Several other counties in the Regional Partnership Local Area are requesting to join other workforce boards to better align with their economic development areas.

Orange County's request to join Capital Area follows the guiding principles for alignment established by the NCWorks Commission earlier this year. Capital Area Workforce Development Board (CAWD) supports their request because Orange County joining with CAWD's Local Area:

- moves CAWD closer to having a regional board that allows us to maximize support of economic development opportunities for our region,
- Further ensure residents have access to a high-quality labor market, and
- Businesses in our region have broader access to a skilled workforce as they face challenges in the current tight labor market.

Board Goal: This action supports Economic Strength Goal 3: Support economic development efforts to bring diverse jobs, talent, businesses, and visitors to Wake County.

Fiscal Impact: Wake County Capital Area Workforce Development would receive Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) allocations to support workforce efforts in Orange County which average

approximately \$600,000 annually in the Workforce Development fund.

Additional Information:

Capital Area Workforce Development Board currently consists of four counties, Wake, Johnston, Lee, and Chatham Counties. A local Workforce Development Board is a group of community and business leaders appointed by local elected officials and charged with planning and oversight responsibilities for workforce programs and services in their area. In North Carolina, there are 22 local boards, and each NC county is associated with a workforce board. Workforce boards are generally responsible to:

1. Promote business partnerships to enhance regional competitiveness
2. Facilitate employment success for adults and youth
3. Lead the expansion of "Regional Collaborative Engagement" in workforce and economic development initiatives
4. Expand resources through strategic leadership and collaborative engagement.

Workforce Board's primary funding and authorization are governed by the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014.

Attachments:

1. Orange County's Intent to Join CAWD
2. Governor Cooper Realignment Letter
3. CAWD Orange County Realignment Application
4. October 10 Work Session Presentation