

Region VII WDB Executive Committee Meeting

September 17, 2026 ~ 6:00 p.m.

Via Zoom

AGENDA

Meeting agenda, attachments, and reports can be found here: <https://wvregion7workforce.org/events1/>

Call to Order

Roll Call

Prior Meeting Minutes

- June 11, 2026 Minutes {action}

Old Business

- None

New Business

- Performance
- Draft Apprenticeship Policy {action}

Reports

- Fiscal Report
- Youth Coordinator's Report
- One-Stop Director's Report
- Program Coordinator's Report
- Executive Director's Report

Open Communication

Next Meeting Dates

- WDB Board Meeting – December 17, 2026 @ 6:00 PM via ZOOM
- WDB Executive Committee Meeting – November 18, 2026 @ 10:00 AM via ZOOM

Adjournment

Topic: Region VII Workforce Development Board Zoom Meeting

Time: Sep 17, 2026 06:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87618952341?pwd=zqlJiyxjBesru70ltH67aynXPF4Had.1>

Meeting ID: 876 1895 2341

Passcode: 787275

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Region VII Workforce Development Board Annual Meeting Minutes

June 11, 2026 ~ 6:00 p.m.

Via Zoom

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 P.M. by Ms. Layne Diehl, WDB Chair.

Roll Call

Following roll call it was determined quorum requirements were met and the meeting proceeded.

Region VII WDB Members in Attendance:

Joel Miltenberger	Kathleen Maiden	Jason Markwood	Margaret Shriver
Kathy Bradley	Kevin Clark	Mike Weaver	
Clayton Strawderman	Joel Miltenberger	Darin Judy	
John Holmes	Stacie Rohn	Mary Dulyea	
Layne Diehl	Jessica Markwood	Peter VanKleeck	

Others in Attendance:

T.J. Van Meter – Executive Director
Michelle McDowell – One Stop Director
Willetta Miller – Youth Coordinator

Prior Meeting Minutes

Layne Diehl, Chair, entertained a motion for approval of the Board meeting minutes for March 19, 2026.

Kathy Bradley made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Joel Miltenberger seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Old Business – No Old Business

New Business

- **FY 27 Budget**

Dr. Van Meter, Executive Director, introduced the FY 27 budget for adoption. Dr. Van Meter reported the WIOA funding allocations PY 26. He stated the proposed budget included staff salaries, fringe, contractual obligations, and client services. Dr. Van Meter reminded the Board that carry-over monies were approximate at this point while we close out FY 26. Dr. Van Meter asserted that there were no new line items on the budget and added the FY 27 budget reflected a \$100,000 reduction in overall funding from the current year. *Layne Diehl, Chair, after asking if there were any questions regarding the budget asked for a motion to adopt the budget as presented. Kathy Bradley made a motion to adopt the FY 27 budget as presented. Kevin Clark seconded the motion. Motion carried.*

- **Fiscal Monitoring and Evaluation Policy**

Dr. Van Meter explained that the current tools and evaluations of contractors and sub recipients had become outdated and that he was advised by officials at WorkForce West Virginia to revise or adopt new policy to bring monitoring and evaluation into compliance with current state and federal standards. Dr. Van Meter noted that the presented policy has been vetted and approved by state officials as compliant with the new state/federal standards. *Mary Dulyea made a motion to approve the policy as presented. Kathy Bradley seconded the motion. Motion carried.*

- **Election of Region VII WDB Officers:**

Chair, Layne Diehl asked for a motion to open the floor for nominations of Treasurer. John Holmes made a motion. Mary Dulyea seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Darin Judy nominated Kathy Bradley as Treasurer. Hearing no other nominations Chair, Layne Diehl asked for a motion to close nominations. Peter VanKleeck made a motion. Mary Dulyea seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Chair, Layne Diehl asked for a motion to open the floor for nominations of Vice-Chair. Mary Dulyea made a motion. John Holmes seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Kathy Bradley nominated Heather McIntyre as Vice-Chair. Hearing no other nominations Chair, Layne Diehl, asked for a motion to close nominations. Mary Dulyea made a motion to close nominations. Peter Van Kleeck seconded. Motion carried,

Chair Layne Diehl asked for a motion to open the floor for nominations of Chair. Darin Judy made a motion. John Holmes seconded. Motion carried.

Mary Dulyea nominated Layne Diehl as Chair. Hearing no other nominations Chair, Layne Diehl requested a motion for nominations to be closed. Mary Dulyea made a motion. Joel Miltenberger seconded. Motion carried.

Region VII WDB Officers for FY 27 as follows:

WDB Chair: Layne Diehl

WDB Vice-Chair: Heather McIntyre

WDB Treasurer: Kathy Bradley

- **Election of Region VII WDB Executive Committee:** The Executive Committee is to be comprised of the three WDB officers plus four at-large board members. Dr. Van Meter

informed the Board that Mike O'Neil had resigned from the Board recently, leaving one current vacancy. *John Holmes made a motion to nominate the current Executive Committee members for consideration minus the vacancy. Kathy Bradley seconded the motion. Motion carried.*

Chair Layne Diehl requested a motion to open the floor for nominations to fill the remaining Executive Committee position. Mary Dulyea made the motion. John Holmes seconded. Motion carried.

John Holmes nominated Jessica Markwood. Hearing no other nominations, Chair Layne Diehl asked for a motion to close nominations. Stacie Rohn made the motion. Darin Judy seconded. Motion carried.

Region VII WDB Executive Committee members for FY26 are as follows:

Layne Diehl – WDB Chair
Heather McIntyre – WDB Vice-Chair
Kathy Bradley – WDB Treasurer
Darin Judy – Business
Fred LeMasters – Business
John Holmes – Partner
Jessica Markwood – Partner

Reports

- **Fiscal Report**
Presented by Dr. Van Meter, noted that the enclosed financial statements were through the end of April. Dr. Van Meter noted that the financial statements provided from the MACC were behind actual expenditures and obligations. He noted that we were on pace to be at the required 80% obligated level by the end of the fiscal year. There were no questions or additional comments.
- **Program Coordinator's Report**
Presented by Dr. Van Meter, reported that Mr. Phillip Sirk, Program Coordinator was ill and regretfully unable to attend the meeting. Dr. Van Meter gave the report highlighting unemployment and inflation trends over the past two years. He mentioned the JACK referral system currently has over 9,500 site visits in the last year. Noting that last year we had a little over 8,000 users and this year we have already surpassed that total and may reach 10,000 users by the end of June.
- **One-Stop Director's Report**
Presented by Ms. Michelle McDowell, noted program numbers in training, outreach and other related activities conducted by Career Center staff. Ms. McDowell highlighted WIOA Adult and DW success stories from PY25. She noted uptick in SNAP E&T customers attending orientation meetings as well. Peter Van Kleeck praised Ms. McDowell and staff for their work, particularly with the SNAP E&T clients.
- **Youth Coordinator's Report**

Presented by Ms. Willetta Miller, reviewed youth activities in the region including; work activity, GED, training, and stipends. She highlighted youth paid work experiences. She noted success stories for youth during PY 25.

- Executive Director's Report

Presented by Dr. Van Meter, he gave an overview of proposed Workforce legislation at a federal level. He added that given the political climate in Washington, most experts agree that the likelihood of WIOA reauthorization or a new federal jobs training program seemed unlikely until after mid-term election cycle. He added recent staff activities, including; audit preparation, acquiring MOU signatures, Board re-certification, case management training and monitoring. John Holmes applauded the seamlessness of the J.A.C.K. referral system and noted how effacement the referral process was. Mike Weaver asked if there was a breakdown of client numbers by county. Dr. Van Meter noted that the numbers could be found on Ms. McDowell's One-Stop Director's report.

Open Communication

- None

Next Meeting Dates

- WDB Executive Committee Meeting – August 19, 2026 @ 10:00 AM via ZOOM
- WDB Board Meeting – September 17, 2026 @ 6:00 PM via ZOOM

Adjournment – *Ms. Layne Diehl, Chair, entertained a motion to adjourn. Mary Dulyea made the motion to adjourn, Kathy Bradley seconded. Motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 7:02 PM.*

Region VII Workforce Development Board Apprenticeship Policy

Effective Date: September 17, 2026

1. Purpose

This policy establishes the framework, eligibility requirements, funding mechanisms, and operational procedures for the Region VII Workforce Development Board (WDB) to support Registered Apprenticeship Programs (RAPs), Pre-Apprenticeship programs, and related activities under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA). It aligns local practice with federal law, regulations, guidance, and West Virginia state policies to expand high-quality, earn-and-learn opportunities for Adults, Dislocated Workers, and Youth in the Region VII local area (Berkeley, Grant, Hardy, Hampshire, Jefferson, Mineral, Morgan, and Pendleton Counties).

2. Legal and Regulatory Authority

This policy is issued pursuant to, and shall be implemented in accordance with, the following:

Federal Law

- Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014 (Public Law 113-128), particularly:
 - Section 122 (Identification of Eligible Providers of Training Services)
 - Section 134 (Use of Funds for Employment and Training Activities)
 - Related provisions promoting work-based learning and career pathways.
- National Apprenticeship Act of 1937 (as amended), also known as the Fitzgerald Act.

Federal Regulations

- 20 CFR Part 680 (Adult and Dislocated Worker Activities under Title I of WIOA), including:
 - § 680.330 – Use of Individual Training Accounts (ITAs), supportive services, and needs-related payments to support placement into and participation in Registered Apprenticeship programs.
 - § 680.470 – Automatic inclusion and maintenance of Registered Apprenticeship programs on the State Eligible Training Provider List (ETPL).
 - Provisions governing On-the-Job Training (OJT), Customized Training, and Incumbent Worker Training.
- 29 CFR Part 29 – Labor Standards for the Registration of Apprenticeship Programs (standards for registration, program operation, and apprenticeable occupations).
- 29 CFR Part 30 – Equal Employment Opportunity in Apprenticeship (nondiscrimination and affirmative action requirements).

Federal Guidance

- Training and Employment Guidance Letter (TEGL) No. 13-16 (and Change 1) – Guidance on Registered Apprenticeship Provisions and Opportunities in the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA).
- Related TEGLs and Training and Employment Notices addressing pre-apprenticeship quality, performance reporting, and integration of Registered Apprenticeship with the public workforce system.

West Virginia State Policy and Plans

- WorkForce West Virginia WIOA Policy No. 01-15 (and subsequent changes) – Eligible Training Provider List (ETPL). Registered Apprenticeship programs are exempt from standard performance and reporting requirements for ETPL inclusion and are automatically considered in-demand when openings exist.
- West Virginia WIOA Combined State Plan (current and subsequent iterations), which prioritizes increasing the number of pre-apprenticeship and Registered Apprenticeship programs and learners, and expanding quality work-based learning opportunities.
- Applicable WorkForce West Virginia Guidance Notices on participant eligibility, priority of service, supportive services, and performance.

Local policies of the Region VII WDB (including those governing OJT, ITAs, supportive services, youth services, and priority of service) apply to the extent they are consistent with this policy and higher authorities.

3. Definitions

- **Registered Apprenticeship Program (RAP):** A program registered with the U.S. Department of Labor Office of Apprenticeship (or a recognized State Apprenticeship Agency) that meets the standards of 29 CFR Part 29, combining structured on-the-job learning (OJL) with related technical instruction (RTI), progressive wage increases, and a nationally recognized credential upon completion.
- **Pre-Apprenticeship:** A program designed to prepare individuals for entry into a RAP, typically including foundational skills, occupational exposure, and a documented partnership or pathway into one or more RAPs (quality standards referenced in applicable DOL guidance, e.g., TEN 23-23 or successor).
- **Related Technical Instruction (RTI) / Classroom Training:** The structured instructional component of a RAP.
- **On-the-Job Learning (OJL) / On-the-Job Training (OJT):** The paid work-based learning component.

4. Policy Statement

Region VII WDB supports Registered Apprenticeship as a proven, industry-driven career pathway strategy that benefits both job seekers (progressive wages, skills, and credentials) and employers (pipeline development, retention, and productivity). Subject to the availability of funds and participant eligibility, Region VII will utilize WIOA Adult, Dislocated Worker, and Youth funds to support RAPs and qualifying Pre-Apprenticeship programs.

5. Eligibility and Program Requirements

- Participants must meet all WIOA eligibility and priority-of-service requirements for the applicable funding stream (Adult, Dislocated Worker, or Youth) prior to enrollment and expenditure of funds.
- **Registered Apprenticeship Programs:** Region VII will fund only those RAPs listed on the West Virginia State Eligible Training Provider List (ETPL). Per state and federal rules, RAPs are automatically eligible for the ETPL and are exempt from standard performance data submission requirements for listing purposes. RA openings listed on the ETPL are treated as in-demand occupations.
- **Pre-Apprenticeship and Non-Registered Programs:** These may be funded only if they meet the requirements applicable to other eligible providers of training services and are listed on the WV State ETPL (or qualify under other allowable WIOA training mechanisms such as contracts where permitted).
- Equal opportunity and nondiscrimination requirements of 29 CFR Part 30 and WIOA apply to all supported programs.

6. Allowable Funding Mechanisms

Region VII may support apprenticeship activities through one or more of the following methods (subject to local funding availability, individual participant needs assessment, and applicable local caps/policies):

1. **Individual Training Accounts (ITAs)** – For the Related Technical Instruction / classroom training component of a RAP (or qualifying Pre-Apprenticeship), provided the program is on the State ETPL. ITAs may be used before, during, or after an OJT component as appropriate to the program structure (per TEGL 13-16 and 20 CFR § 680.330).
2. **On-the-Job Training (OJT) Contracts** – To reimburse employers for a portion of the wages of WIOA-eligible apprentices during the OJT component. Standard local OJT policy (reimbursement rates, duration, employer eligibility, etc.) applies. Generally limited to one OJT contract per employer/apprentice in a 12-month period unless otherwise justified.
3. **Combined ITA + OJT** – A combination of an ITA for RTI and an OJT contract for OJT is expressly permitted and encouraged when it best meets the needs of the participant and employer.
4. **Customized Training** – May be used to support apprenticeship sponsors and cohorts where the training is designed to meet the special requirements of an employer or group of employers and is conducted with a commitment to employ individuals upon successful completion.
5. **Incumbent Worker Training** – May be used for upskilling of workers who already have an employment relationship with the sponsor, consistent with local Incumbent Worker Training policy and WIOA requirements.
6. **Supportive Services** – Available to enable participation (e.g., tools, books, uniforms, transportation, childcare, etc.), consistent with local supportive services policy and 20 CFR §§ 680.900–680.970.
7. **Needs-Related Payments** – May be provided to Adults and Dislocated Workers participating in Registered Apprenticeship when eligibility criteria are met.

Youth participants may also access apprenticeship-related activities through WIOA Youth program elements (including work experience, occupational skills training, and supportive services), consistent with local Youth policies.

7. Assessment and Documentation

- Adults and Dislocated Workers accepted into an approved RAP may be exempt from certain basic skills assessments (e.g., TABE) if the RAP sponsor provides written attestation that the individual has met the program's own testing/evaluation requirements. Documentation must be retained in the participant file.
- Out-of-school Youth and participants in Pre-Apprenticeship or non-registered programs are generally required to complete applicable assessments per local and state policy.
- All standard WIOA case management, Individual Employment Plan (IEP)/Individual Service Strategy (ISS), and performance documentation requirements apply. Apprenticeship participation is reported according to federal and state guidance (including TEGL 13-16 Attachment III or successor).

8. Roles and Responsibilities

- **Region VII WDB:** Sets local policy, ensures compliance, monitors performance and expenditures, and promotes apprenticeship as a key strategy.
- **American Job Center / Career Center Staff and Service Providers:** Conduct eligibility determination, provide career counseling, facilitate informed choice among training options (including RAPs), develop IEPs/ISSs, coordinate funding, and provide case management and follow-up.
- **Employers / Sponsors:** Maintain registration status, comply with 29 CFR Parts 29 and 30, provide progressive wages and structured training, and cooperate with documentation and monitoring.
- **WorkForce West Virginia:** Maintains the State ETPL and provides statewide coordination and technical assistance.

9. Monitoring, Performance, and Continuous Improvement

All activities are subject to federal, state, and local monitoring. Performance outcomes (employment, earnings, credential attainment, measurable skill gains) will be tracked in accordance with WIOA performance accountability requirements. The WDB will periodically review this policy and apprenticeship outcomes to identify opportunities for expansion, particularly in high-demand industries aligned with the local and state plans.

10. Action and Implementation

All Region VII WDB staff, American Job Center partners, and contracted service providers shall implement this policy immediately upon Board approval. Staff shall inform eligible customers of apprenticeship opportunities and assist them in making informed career decisions.

This policy remains in effect until rescinded or modified by the Region VII Workforce Development Board.

Approved by:

Layne Diehl, Board Chair: _____ Date: _____

Dr. Thomas J. Van Meter, Executive Director _____ Date: _____

Contact: Region VII Workforce Development Board 151 Robert C. Byrd Industrial Park Road, Suite #2 Moorefield, WV 26836 Phone: (304) 530-5258 Email: tjvanmeter@region7workforce.org

Consolidated Statement of Financial Status Region 7 - PY2025

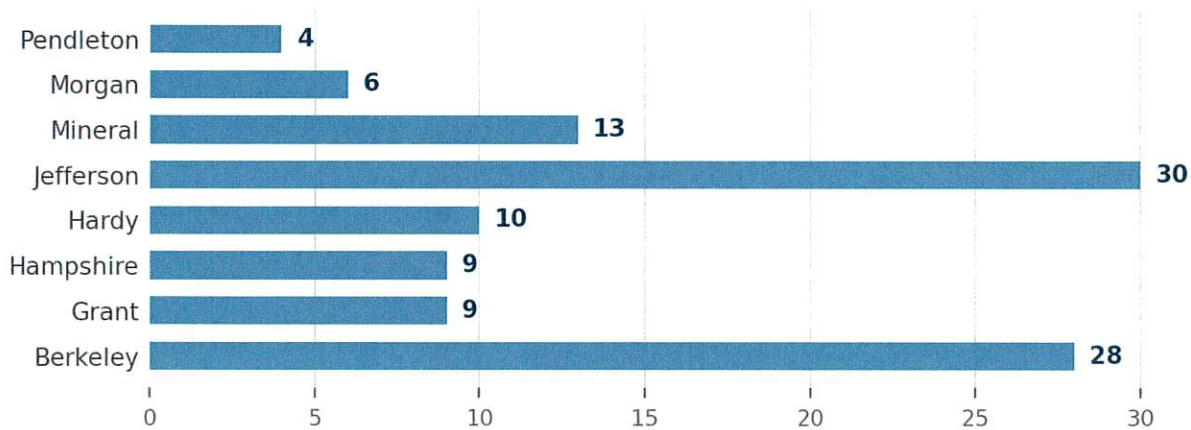
Grant Period: 07/01/2025 To Report Period: 07/01/2025 To
06/30/2027 07/31/2026

	Adult	Youth	Dislocated Worker	Total
Funds Available PY	59,732.03	247,443.16	163,776.81	470,952.00
Funds Available FY	247,192.63		603,530.90	850,723.53
Total Available for Program Year PY2025	306,924.66	247,443.16	767,307.71	1,321,675.53
Total Expended to Date	306,924.66	242,484.21	528,411.85	1,077,820.72
Total Administrative Costs to Date	5,809.98	8,070.06	6,397.19	20,277.23
Total Obligated to Date	306,924.66	247,443.16	558,859.15	1,113,226.97
Unliquidated Obligations	0.00	4,958.95	30,447.30	35,406.25
Balance of Unexpended Funds	0.00	4,958.95	238,895.86	243,854.81
Balance of Unobligated Funds	0.00	0.00	208,448.56	208,448.56
Percentage of Funds Expended	100.0000%	97.9959%	68.8657%	81.5496%
Percentage of Funds Obligated	100.0000%	100.0000%	* 72.8338%	84.2285%
Total Cash Received to Date	306,924.66	164,553.08	124,342.34	595,820.08
Total Award Balance: End of Period	0.00	82,890.08	642,965.37	725,855.45
		Youth Out of School		
Total Expended for Out of School Youth		153,746.25		
Percentage of Funds Expended for OSY		# 64.2287%		
Total Expended for Work Experience		61,352.29		
Percentage of Funds Expended for Work Experience		25.6304%		
Total Expended for Training & Supportive Services	67,318.07		258,100.34	
Percentage of Funds Expended for Training & Supportive Services	21.9331%		33.6371%	
Total Expended for Incumbent Worker Training				5,130.00
Percentage for Incumbent Worker Training (AD & DW)				0.4776%
Total Expended for Transitional Jobs Expenditures				47,607.29

REGION 7 WDB YOUTH SERVICES REPORT

47 ACTIVE YOUTH	62 FOLLOW-UP YOUTH	109 TOTAL CASELOAD
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CURRENT CASELOAD BY COUNTY



PROGRAM YEAR OUTCOMES

FINAL PY 2025 OUTCOMES		PY 2026 YEAR-TO-DATE	
July 1, 2025–June 30, 2026		July 1, 2026–report date	
New youth enrolled	17	New youth enrolled	2
Paid Work Experiences	10	Paid Work Experiences	3
Attended AE Center/ High School	43	Attending AE Center/ High School	34
GEDs/high school diplomas	20	GEDs/high school diplomas	0
Entered employment	10	Entered employment	3
Entered postsecondary education	9	Entered postsecondary education	1
Youth exited	20	Youth exited	26

Data note: Final PY 2025 totals include outcomes earned through June 30, 2026, including documentation received after year-end. PY 2026 totals reflect activity occurring on or after July 1, 2026.

PROGRAM UPDATE

Caseload Transition: During August, 26 youth who no longer require active services are transitioning into follow-up. This will reduce the active caseload to 47 youth and increase the follow-up caseload to 62, allowing staff to provide more individualized case management while continuing to monitor education and employment outcomes after exit. Reducing the active caseload also creates capacity to consider and enroll new eligible youth who are interested in and can benefit from WIOA Youth services.

PY 2025 Outcomes: Final documentation received through June 30, 2026, has been reviewed and added to the year-end totals. PY 2025 concluded with a total of 20 GEDs or high school diplomas earned, 10 youth entering employment, 9 youth entering postsecondary education, and 20 youth exiting the active program.

Paid Work Experience: Three Paid Work Experiences have started since the beginning of PY 2026. Staff continue working with participating employers and developing additional PWE opportunities that provide youth with hands-on training, career exploration, and workplace experience.

Education, Credentials, and Measurable Skill Gains: Increased attention is being given to identifying, documenting, and entering Measurable Skill Gains and credentials in a timely manner. These were performance areas in which program results lagged during the previous year. Staff are improving communication with youth, Adult Education instructors, schools, and training providers to obtain GED records, transcripts, test results, progress reports, and other documentation needed to accurately capture participant achievement.

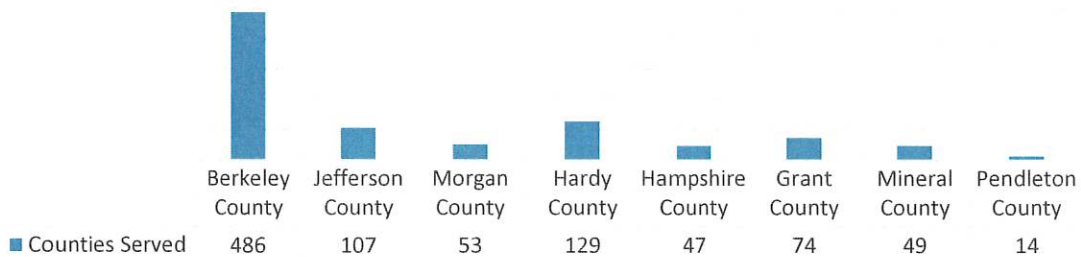
Current Program Priorities: As Adult Education centers return from summer break, staff are reengaging youth, confirming enrollment and attendance, monitoring GED progress, and coordinating referrals for potential new participants. Additional priorities include reviewing ISS goals and documented barriers, assessing current service needs, strengthening case notes, and helping youth remain engaged in education and employment activities.

REGION 7 FY25-26 ONE STOP DIRECTORS REPORT

FY 25/26	JULY 2025	AUG 2025	SEPT 2025	OCT 2025	NOV 2025	DEC 2025	JAN 2026	FEB 2026	MAR 2026	APR 2026	MAY 2026	JUNE 2026		JULY 2026	AUG 2026
New JS Enrolled	145	113	107	143	135	151	160	203	165	100	112	145		129	125
New UI Claims	178	111	118	146	175	128	199	175	155	96	122	98		150	106
One Stop Clients	119	126	118	122	126	126	112	118	120	101	110	114		103	108

July 1, 2025 – August 30, 2026 (Orientations, Resume Workshops, Testing Assessments, ITA's, OJT's & TJ's)

Counties Served



Quarterly News

We continue to assist participants and clients. We also continue to attend Job Fairs and have made an Incumbent worker flyer with information to help employers and their employees through the Incumbent worker grant program – through this grant program the employer can get assistance with training expenses for the training that the employees need to stay employed, excel and get promoted through the company. We have been taking this opportunity to speak with employers at the job fairs about the Incumbent Worker Grant Program. We are also scheduling times for employers to have more of a one-on-one personal job fair by letting them use our big training room to do specialized job fairs as well. We have 2 scheduled for the month of September already.

STUDENTS ACTIVE IN TRAINING

In the Medical field (RN, RT, MCA): 14 active clients in training

Cosmetology field: 9 active clients in training

Vo-tech students (Electricians, HVAC & CDL-A): 16 clients in training

We have 1 client working in our Transitional Job Program

In our E&T Program – we have had 3 people obtain GED's this year, 2 that are currently working on their GED, 1 obtain his CDL-A Certification and License - Kim and Mike are working with a few more E&T clients that will be going into the WIOA Program within the next month

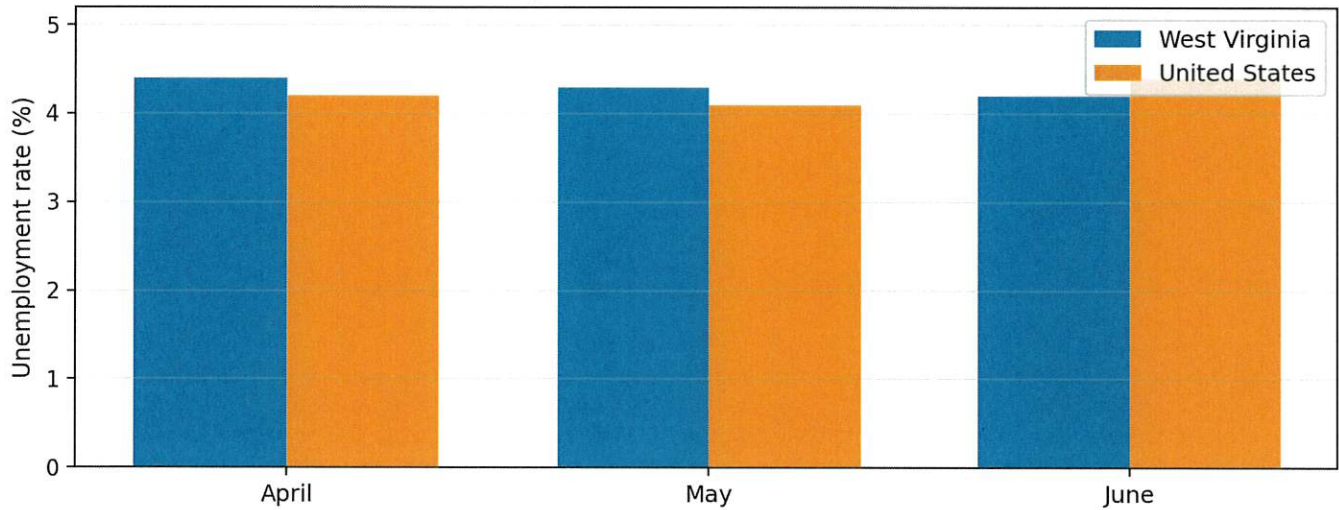
Region VII Workforce Development Board

Unemployment Rate & Labor Market Snapshot — April–June 2026

Executive Summary

During the second quarter of 2026, West Virginia’s seasonally adjusted unemployment rate declined from 4.4% in April to 4.2% in June. The national seasonally adjusted rate was 4.3% in April and May and 4.2% in June. County-level BLS rates are not seasonally adjusted and should be compared with the national not-seasonally-adjusted rates of 4.2%, 4.1%, and 4.4% for April, May, and June.

West Virginia vs. United States — Q2 2026



Year-over-Year Context

Measure	Apr. 2025	Apr. 2026	May 2025	May 2026	Jun. 2025	Jun. 2026
West Virginia	3.9%	4.4%	4.0%	4.3%	4.0%	4.2%
United States	4.2%	4.2%	4.2%	4.1%	4.1%	4.4%

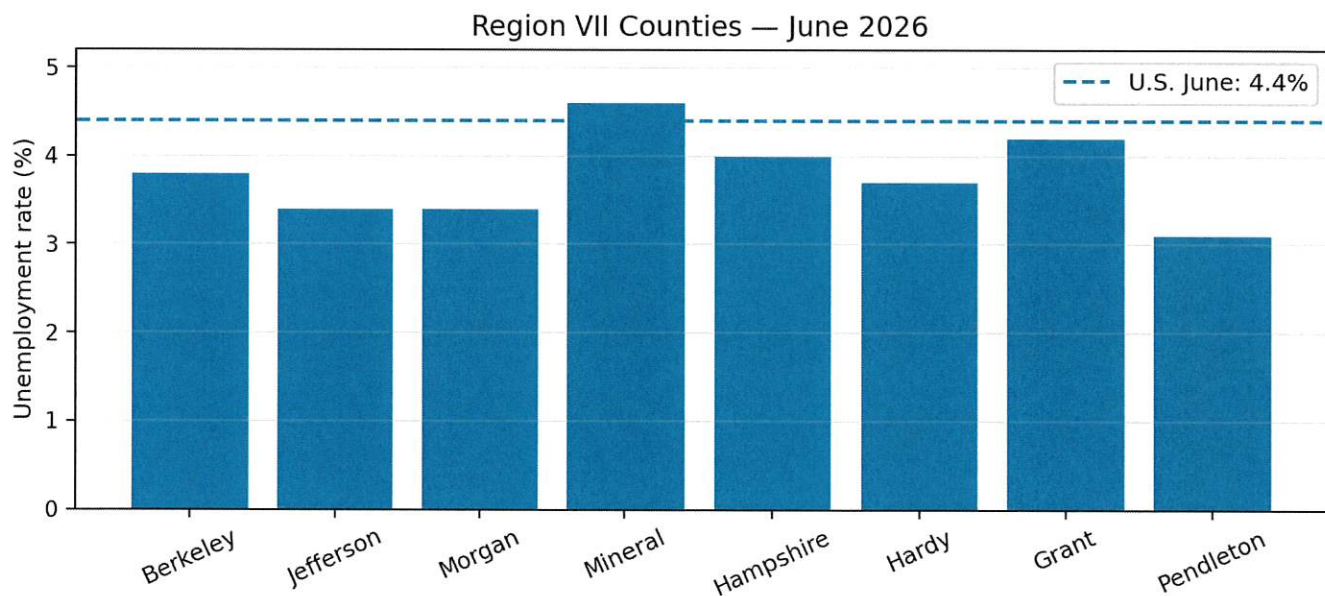
West Virginia’s unemployment rate was higher than a year earlier in each month, but the year-over-year difference narrowed from +0.5 percentage point in April to +0.2 point in June. By June, West Virginia’s seasonally adjusted rate had returned to the national rate.

Key takeaway: Statewide labor-market conditions improved during Q2 2026, with unemployment falling 0.2 percentage point from April to June.

Region VII County-Level Unemployment

Berkeley, Jefferson, Morgan, Mineral, Hampshire, Hardy, Grant and Pendleton Counties

County	April	May	June
Berkeley	3.6%	3.1%	3.8%
Jefferson	3.3%	2.9%	3.4%
Morgan	3.6%	2.9%	3.4%
Mineral	4.2%	3.7%	4.6%
Hampshire	3.7%	3.2%	4.0%
Hardy	3.6%	2.9%	3.7%
Grant	4.1%	3.3%	4.2%
Pendleton	3.3%	2.4%	3.1%



Labor-force-weighted Region VII estimate

Using county labor-force weights, the combined Region VII unemployment-rate estimate is approximately 3.6% in April, 3.1% in May, and 3.8% in June. This weighting gives appropriate influence to larger labor markets such as Berkeley and Jefferson rather than simply averaging all eight county percentages.

Regional observations

In June, seven of the eight Region VII counties were below the 4.4% national not-seasonally-adjusted rate. Jefferson and Morgan were both at 3.4%, while Pendleton was lowest at 3.1%. Mineral was the only county above the national rate at 4.6%. Mineral and Grant had the largest May-to-June increases, each rising 0.9 percentage point.

Data note: County unemployment rates are not seasonally adjusted and are subject to revision. State-level comparisons use seasonally adjusted BLS rates; county analysis uses BLS/FRED not-seasonally-adjusted rates. Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS), accessed through FRED, Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis.



Region VII Workforce Development Board Executive Director's Report Executive Committee Meeting

Prepared by: Dr. T.J. Van Meter, Executive Director

Date: September 2026

1. Strategic Plan Update (PY 2026–2028)

The Region VII Workforce Development Board PY 2026–2028 Strategic Plan has been posted to the Board's website (www.wvregion7workforce.org) under the Policies tab for public comment. The comment period opened August 1, 2026, and closes August 15, 2026.

A hard copy may be requested by contacting the Region VII office at (304) 530-5258. Written comments should be mailed to:

T.J. Van Meter, Executive Director Region VII Workforce Development Board 151
Robert C. Byrd Industrial Park Road, Suite #2 Moorefield, WV 26836

Staff will compile all comments received and present a summary, along with any recommended revisions, to the full Board for final consideration and adoption. The plan aligns local strategies with the West Virginia WIOA Combined State Plan priorities, including expansion of registered apprenticeship and pre-apprenticeship opportunities, work-based learning, and employer-driven training in high-demand sectors serving Berkeley, Grant, Hardy, Hampshire, Jefferson, Mineral, Morgan, and Pendleton Counties.

2. Recent Fiscal and Program Monitoring – Maher Duessel

Maher Duessel (a firm engaged by WorkForce West Virginia to perform fiscal and programmatic monitoring of local workforce development areas) has conducted recent monitoring of Region VII WIOA Title I activities. As is standard practice, the firm reviews financial management, participant eligibility and documentation, training and supportive service expenditures, equal opportunity compliance, and overall adherence to federal and state requirements.

At the time of this report, final written findings and any required corrective action plans have not yet been formally issued to the Board. Staff will brief the Executive Committee and full Board promptly upon receipt of the official report and will implement any necessary corrective actions in a timely manner. Region VII continues to maintain strong internal controls and documentation practices in anticipation of ongoing state and federal oversight.

3. State and National Workforce Trends

National (as of June 2026 data)

- The U.S. unemployment rate stood at 4.2 percent in June 2026 (down slightly from 4.3 percent in May).
- Nonfarm payroll employment rose by only 57,000 jobs in June, indicating a cooling labor market.
- Labor force participation fell to 61.5 percent—the lowest level since March 2021—driven by approximately 720,000 people leaving the labor force.
- Job openings declined to approximately 7.36 million in June, reflecting a more balanced “low-hire, low-fire” environment.

West Virginia (as of June 2026 data)

- Statewide unemployment rate: 4.2 percent (matching the national rate and down from 4.3 percent in May).
- Labor force participation rate: 53.9 percent (among the lowest in the nation and slightly down from prior months).
- Civilian labor force continued a gradual contraction.
- Payroll employment in the state declined by approximately 9,100 jobs in June, largely concentrated in the government sector.

These trends underscore persistent challenges in labor force participation, particularly in rural areas such as those served by Region VII, while also highlighting continued employer demand for skilled workers in healthcare, construction, manufacturing, logistics, and other priority sectors. The Board’s emphasis on registered apprenticeship, on-the-job training, and career pathways remains highly relevant in this environment.

4. Region VII WIOA Performance Outcomes (see attached chart)

Detailed rolling four-quarter performance outcomes for Adult, Dislocated Worker, and Youth programs continue to be tracked through WorkForce West Virginia’s statewide performance reporting system. The most recent publicly posted state-level comparison of outcomes versus negotiated goals covers the period April 1, 2024 – March 31, 2025.

Region VII staff monitor local performance indicators (employment rate in the 2nd and 4th quarters after exit, median earnings, credential attainment, measurable skill gains, and effectiveness in serving employers) against negotiated levels. Staff will provide the most current local performance snapshot at the meeting and remain focused on continuous improvement, particularly in credential attainment and post-exit employment outcomes for participants exiting into registered apprenticeship and other work-based learning opportunities.

5. National WIOA Legislative Updates

Congress continues work on reauthorization of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act. In April 2026, House Education and the Workforce Committee Chairman Tim Walberg (R-MI) introduced H.R. 8210, the *A Stronger Workforce for America Act of 2026*. The bill advanced out of committee along party lines in late April 2026.

Key proposed provisions of interest to local boards include:

- A requirement that at least 50 percent of Adult and Dislocated Worker funding be spent on training activities (with up to 10 percent allowable for certain supportive services and individualized career services tied to training).
- Authority for states to reserve an additional 10 percent of funds for a Critical Industry Skills Fund (potentially increasing the overall state set-aside).
- Retention of a population threshold related to local workforce area redesignation.
- Proposed transfer of certain adult education programs from the U.S. Department of Education to the U.S. Department of Labor.
- Multi-year authorization of funding at or near current levels (with a modest proposed reduction in Dislocated Worker funding over six years).

The path to final passage remains uncertain given the partisan nature of the current version and the need for 60 votes in the Senate. Region VII staff and the West Virginia Association of Workforce Investment Boards continue to monitor developments and will keep the Board informed of any impacts on local funding, flexibility, or program design.

Respectfully submitted,

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Region VII Workforce Development Board WIOA Performance – Executive Summary Table
Program Year 2025 | Quarter Ending June 30, 2026 *(Exact values from Region 7 / WIB 54045 ETA-9173 reports – primarily Rolling 4 Quarters & Program-to-Date Total Current Period)*

Program	Participants Served	Q2 Employment / Placement	Q4 Employment / Placement	Median Earnings	Credential Rate	Measurable Skill Gains	Overall Assessment
Adult	66 – 72	77.6%	69.1% – 74.0%	\$8,783 – \$8,921	84.4%	52.5% – 59.4%	Strong – High credentials
Dislocated Worker	28 – 33	83.3%	76.9% – 83.3%	\$10,972 – \$12,811	71.7% – 85.7%	50.0% – 76.3%	Excellent – Best employment & earnings
Youth	110	74.2%	73.0%	\$6,787	40.4%	40.2%	Solid placement; credentials need focus

Notes on Exact Values

- **Adult:** Q2 Employment Rate = 77.6% (Total Current Period, Rolling 4 Quarters). Credential Rate consistently strong at 84.4% in key views.
- **Dislocated Worker:** Q2 Employment Rate = 83.3% (Total Current Period). Median earnings remain the highest of the three programs.
- **Youth:** Q2 Placement Rate = 74.2%; Credential Rate = 40.4% (Total Current Period, Rolling 4 Quarters). This is the clearest area for improvement.

Source: Official Region 7 (54045) local-area performance reports certified in WIPS, July 28, 2026.

Comparison to Statewide Averages (Context)

Indicator	Region 7 Adult	State Adult	Region 7 DW	State DW	Region 7 Youth	State Youth
Q2 Emp / Placement	77–78%	~78–81%	83–88%	~86–89%	73–74%	~71–74%
Median Earnings	\$8.8–10.2k	~\$9k	\$12–14k	~\$13k	\$6.3–6.8k	~\$5.2–5.3k
Credential Rate	83–87%	~73–76%	72–86%	~79–80%	38–43%	~66–68%
Measurable Skill Gains	52–59%	~59–65%	50–76%	~55–57%	40–76%	~44–52%

Observations:

- Region 7 Adult credential rates outperform the state.
- Dislocated Worker employment and earnings are competitive with (and sometimes exceed) state levels despite small volume.
- Youth credential rates lag the statewide average — this is the most notable gap.

Region VII Workforce Development Board WIOA Performance vs. State Negotiated Benchmarks Program Year 2025 | Period Ending June 30, 2026

Indicator	Adult Negotiated	Region 7 Actual	Status	DW Negotiated	Region 7 Actual	Status	Youth Negotiated	Region 7 Actual	Status
Employment / Placement Rate (Q2)	74%	77.6%	Met	80%	83.3%	Met	66.5%	74.2%	Met
Employment / Placement Rate (Q4)	72%	69% – 74%	Met*	84%	77% – 83%	Met*	67.7%	73.0%	Met
Median Earnings	\$7,500	\$8,783 – \$8,921	Met	\$11,000	\$10,972 – \$12,811	Met	\$4,100	\$6,787	Met
Credential Rate	80%	84.4%	Met	84%	72% – 86%	Met*	62%	40.4%	Not Met
Measurable Skill Gains	50%	52.5% – 59.4%	Met	45%	50% – 76%	Met	51%	40.2%	Not Met

*Slight variation across Rolling 4 Quarters / Program-to-Date views; overall performance is considered met.

Executive Summary

- **Adult Program:** Fully met or exceeded all state benchmarks. Particularly strong in Credential Rate and Median Earnings.
- **Dislocated Worker Program:** Met or exceeded all benchmarks. Highest employment rates and earnings of the three programs.
- **Youth Program:** Met or exceeded Employment/Placement and Median Earnings benchmarks. **Did not meet** Credential Rate (40.4% vs. 62%) or Measurable Skill Gains (40.2% vs. 51%).

Overall Conclusion: Region VII achieved the majority of West Virginia's WIOA negotiated performance levels for PY 2025. The primary area requiring focused improvement is Youth credential attainment and measurable skill gains.

Prepared for Region VII Executive Committee Data Source: Region 7 (WIB 54045) ETA-9173 reports and West Virginia negotiated performance levels