

Area 2 Local Workforce Plan

July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2029



**Summit and Medina
Workforce Area**
Council of Governments



OhioMeansJobs.

Summit & Medina Counties

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BACKGROUND

This document, the Area 2 Local Workforce Plan (local plan), is submitted as an addendum to the Northeast Ohio Workforce Regional Plan (regional plan) as required in Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act (WIOA) Policy Letter 16-03.1. This local plan will remain in effect from July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2029. Under WIOA, states may establish local plan contents pursuant to the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014 and its applicable final rules. This plan fully complies with the requirements outlined in Attachment D of Policy Letter 16-03.1.

Description of Local Workforce Area

ODJFS has certified Area 2, consisting of Medina and Summit Counties, as a local workforce region eligible for Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) funding. As established by ODJFS, Area 2 is one of five Workforce Areas in the Northeast Ohio Workforce (NOW) Region which also includes Area 3 (Cuyahoga); Area 4 (Lorain); Area 5 (Lake); and Area 19 (Ashtabula, Geauga, and Portage).

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the combined estimated population for Area 2 was 719,775 residents in 2023. The county seat for Summit County is the City of Akron which is ranked as the 5th largest city in Ohio with 188,701 residents. The City of Medina serves as the county seat for Medina County and is ranked as the 59th largest city in Ohio with 25,889 residents. The most populous city in Medina County is Brunswick which ranks 41st in Ohio with 35,072 residents. Summit County tends to be more densely populated while Medina County is more sparsely populated and functions as a “bedroom community” with its workforce serving both Summit and Cuyahoga Counties.

The Area’s postsecondary educational resources include The University of Akron, Kent State Twinsburg Academic Center (Twinsburg), and Stark State College (Akron) all located in Summit County; and Cuyahoga Community College’s Western Campus (Brunswick) and The University of Akron’s Medina County University Center (Medina City) in Medina County. Both counties have career technical centers: Portage Lakes Career Center (Green) in Summit County and the Medina County Career Center. Additionally, there are educational compacts that support high school students: Four Cities Compact (Barberton, Norton, Wadsworth, and Copley high schools) and Six District Educational Compact (Cuyahoga Falls, Hudson, Kent, Stow-Munroe Falls, Tallmadge, and Woodridge high schools).

Labor Market Information

Full labor market and economic analysis, as required by WIOA Policy Letter 16-03.1, is included in the regional plan. Selected data points specific to Area 2 are highlighted below utilizing labor market information provided by Ohio Department of Job and Family Services which incorporates data from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) and the U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey.

- Employment reached 359,400 workers in 2024, a 6.8% increase (23,000 jobs) since the pandemic low in 2020. While this represents substantial recovery, it still falls short of the pre-pandemic high of 362,900 in 2019.
- The labor force (those employed or actively seeking work) was 375,000 in 2024, a modest 2.7% increase from the 2021 low of 365,200, and remains below the 2019 pre-pandemic level of 378,000.

The Hispanic/Latino population in Area 2 had the highest labor force participation rate of any racial or ethnic group in the northeast Ohio region with the exception of the Asian population in Ashtabula County.

- The annual unemployment rate in 2024 in Medina County was 3.3% and in Summit County was 4.3%; the statewide rate was 4.3%.
- The largest share of households falls within the \$50,000 to \$74,999 and \$100,000 to \$149,999 ranges (17.1% each).
- 4% of families in Medina County and 9% in Summit County live below poverty.
- While the NOW region experienced a slight contraction of jobs over the past five years (-278), Area 2 experienced slight growth (874) during that same period.
- Nearly half of all jobs in northeast Ohio are concentrated in Health Care and Social Assistance; Manufacturing; Retail Trade; and Accommodation and Food Services, and the most significant employment gains occurred in Transportation and Warehousing.
- Almost half of all jobs in Area 2 are concentrated in Health Care and Social Assistance (17%); Manufacturing (11%); Retail Trade (11%); and Accommodation and Food Services (9%). Between 2018 and 2023, the most significant employment gains occurred in Transportation and Warehousing which grew by 38% (+5,246); Educational Services which grew by 13% (+2,554); and Construction which grew by 11% (+1,667). Job posting data for Area 2 indicates the most in-demand jobs are Registered Nurses, Heavy/Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers, First-Line Supervisors of Retail Sales Workers, Accountants and Auditors, Retail Salespersons, and Stockers and Order Fillers.

Recent investments exceeding \$106 million in Greater Akron's polymer industry are catalyzing significant growth and innovation in the region, with projections of thousands of new jobs and hundreds of additional STEM credentials. The expansion is expected to create or retain more than 4,000 jobs, spur over \$1 billion in private investment, and generate up to \$5 billion in economic impact for Northeast Ohio. This growth emphasizes the need for targeted workforce development to meet rising demand for advanced polymer manufacturing and sustainable technology skills, while also supporting small business growth and regional competitiveness.

Area 2 Workforce Development Board

The local area is served by a Council of Governments (COG), a political subdivision recognized under Chapter 167 of the Ohio Revised Code. The COG was officially approved by the State of Ohio in November 2016 and is established under the name [The Summit and Medina Workforce Area Council of Governments](#) (SAMWA COG) and subsequently adopted its own [COG Bylaws](#). The member representatives of the COG consist of one commissioner appointed by his or her peers from Medina County, and the Summit County Executive.

Please find attached to this plan Exhibit A containing a table of organization to better illustrate Area 2's organizational structure.

In compliance with WIOA, the COG members, as the Chief Elected Officials (CEO), appoint the Workforce Development Board (WDB) members to fulfill and execute the roles and responsibilities outlined in WIOA and its final rules and other binding regulations. The WDB has adopted its own [WDB Bylaws](#). The COG members retain the responsibilities assigned to CEOs under WIOA. The day-to-day WDB responsibilities,

per WIOA, are assigned to the board's Executive Director and staff. For responsibilities not specifically assigned by WIOA or its final rules, the Executive Director assumes responsibility as directed by WDB and COG bylaws. The Area 2 WDB maintains a membership of 19 of which at least 51% are from the business community. Please find attached to this plan Exhibit B containing the current roster of WDB members.

Part I: LOCAL PLAN DESCRIPTIONS AS REQUIRED BY ODJFS WIOA POLICY LETTER 16-03.1

1. The Workforce Development System in the Local Area That Identifies the Programs That Are Included in the System and Location of the OhioMeansJobs Centers in the Local Workforce Development Area

1.1.1 Programs Included in Area 2 OhioMeansJobs Center:

Program	Provider
WIOA Title I, Adult and Dislocated Workers	Medina and Summit: KRA Corporation
WIOA Title I & Social Security Act Title IV-A TANF braided to fund Ohio's Comprehensive Case Management and Employment Program (CCMEP)/Youth Services	Medina and Summit: Jobs for Ohio's Graduates (JOG)
WIOA Title II, Adult Education and Family Literacy	Medina: N/A
	Summit: Project Learn of Summit County
WIOA Title III, Wagner-Peyser Act	Medina and Summit: Ohio Department of Job and Family Services
Rehabilitation Act, Title I, Vocational Rehabilitation Program	Medina and Summit: Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities
WIOA Title I, Job Corps Program	Medina: N/A
	Summit: Equus Workforce Solutions
WIOA Title I, Youth Build	Medina: N/A
	Summit: Towpath Trail High School
Trade Act Title II, Trade Adjustment Assistance and North American Free Trade Agreement	Medina and Summit: Ohio Department of Job & Family Services
Jobs for Veterans Act, Disabled Veterans' Outreach Program and Local Veterans' Employment Representatives	Medina: Ohio Department of Job & Family Services
	Summit: Ohio Department of Job & Family Services and Volunteers of America
Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Applied Technology Education Act, Post-Secondary Vocational Education	Medina: Medina County Career Center
	Summit: Portage Lakes Career Center
Older Americans Act Title V, Senior Community Service Employment Program	Medina: N/A
	Summit: Vantage Aging
Social Security Act Title IV-A, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)	Medina: Medina County Job & Family Services
	Summit: Summit County Job & Family Services
WIOA Title I, Migrant and Seasonal Farm Worker Program	Medina: N/A
	Summit: Pathstone
Community Services Block Grant & Training Programs	Medina: N/A
	Summit: Community Action Akron Summit
Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Employment and Training Programs	Medina: N/A
	Summit: Akron Metropolitan Housing Authority

WIOA Title I, Youthbuild	Towpath Trail High School
Reemployment Services and Eligibility Assessment (RESEA)	Medina and Summit: Summit and Medina Workforce Area COG

Additional Partners in the OMJ centers include:

Medina and Summit:

- Not-for-Profit Corporation Employment Preparation Agency
 - *The Goodwill Industries of Akron, Ohio, Inc.*

Summit:

- US DOL Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program (HVRP) Grant
 - *Volunteers of America Ohio and Indiana*
- Governmental agency focused on empowering people with disabilities in the workplace
 - *Summit County Developmental Disabilities Board*
- *United States Department of Health and Human Services (U.S. HHS) Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration funding*
 - Ohio Guidestone

In Program Year 2023:

- 13,154 individuals visited the two OMJ centers in the Area
- 1,034 WIOA participants were served (600 Adult; 157 Dislocated Workers; 277 CCMEP Youth)
- 124 businesses were engaged
- 65 recruitment events were held

Area 2 is involved in a number of special initiatives:

Pre-Apprenticeship Program. Area 2 partnered with Medina’s economic development agency to support pre-apprenticeship programs for Medina County high school students. These pre-apprenticeship programs provide hands-on learning and industry exposure through job shadowing, field trips and capstone projects; build direct pathways into apprenticeship programs and high-demand careers; and fulfill high school graduation requirements.

Work-Based Learning. Area 2’s approach to youth employment in Summit County is highly collaborative, involving the County’s out-of-school network, the local United Way, Job and Family Services, CCMEP provider and local school districts. Students are connected to valuable work experiences and earn up to \$2,400 during an eight-week period over the summer. Work placements are intentionally aligned with students’ career pathways which strengthens the connection between the classroom and real-life work world. In 2024, almost 800 youth worked with over 300 local employers.

Construction Training for Youth and Women. To address the demand for construction workers and expand opportunities for underrepresented groups, Area 2 partnered on two major initiatives. By partnering with Towpath Trail High School, a drop-out recovery high school, students can earn a certificate in Construction and are prepared for immediate entry into the workforce. Designed to attract more women into construction, Area 2 partnered with the Ohio State Building and Construction Trades Council to conduct targeted outreach and skills training.

Police Officer Training. To address the need for public service workers, Area 2 collaborates with The University of Akron/Summit County Sheriff's Policy Academy. This program provides 711 hours of comprehensive training and prepares individuals to pass the Ohio State Peace Officer's Certification exam. OMJ staff actively recruit and support cohorts through outreach and informational sessions, financial support, and guidance for academy applicants.

Community Workforce Programs. Area 2 adopts a proactive approach to engaging residents. First, OMJ staff collaborate with community organizations like Akron's The Well CDC and go into the neighborhoods to deliver workforce development programming works, help community members remove barriers to employment, and provide hands-on assistance to help residents become WIOA-eligible. In addition, the Adult/Dislocated Worker service provider, KRA Corporation, further strengthens community engagement by deploying two dedicated staff members who meet jobseekers where they are, whether at a church, the library or a local diner, to ensure services are accessible and responsive to the needs of the community.

Welcoming Workforce Coalition. Area 2 launched the Welcoming Workforce Coalition to bring together employers, economic development agencies, government, community organizations, and educational institutions around the shared mission to strengthen the local economy by welcoming international newcomers to address talent shortages and encourage population growth. The 25-member coalition enhanced employers' cultural competency and improved the connection between international students, immigrants, and refugees to local job opportunities through five pilot initiatives. For example, the Welcoming Workforce Career Fair drew 150 international students with 96% indicating they planned to apply for jobs as a result of the event. Additionally, a half-day summit brought together 96 local leaders, including elected officials, business executives, and economic developers to build momentum around the economic contributions of international newcomers.

1.2 Location of OhioMeansJobs Centers in the Workforce Development Area

Area 2 operates one OMJ center in each county:

OhioMeansJobs Summit County
(comprehensive center)
1040 East Tallmadge Avenue
Akron, OH 44310
330-633-1050

www.summitmedinaomj.org/home/Home-Summit-County-OMJ.html

OhioMeansJobs Medina County
(affiliate center)
72 Public Square, First Floor
Medina, OH 44256
330-723-9675

www.summitmedinaomj.org/home/Home-Medina-County-OMJ.html

In addition, the WDB has established Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) with the following local libraries where OMJ staff regularly provide services:

Akron - Summit County Public Library System
Barberton Public Library
Cuyahoga Falls Public Library
Medina County District Library
Stow-Munroe Falls Public Library
Twinsburg Public Library

2. Explanation of the OhioMeansJobs Delivery System

2.1 How the Local Board Ensures Continuous Improvement of Eligible Service Providers and That Providers Will Meet the Employment Needs of Local Employers, Workers and Jobseekers

WIOA creates a performance-based structure for providing services, and each local workforce area is required to negotiate performance levels with the state annually. Area 2 successfully met their performance goals in the most recently reported year, Program Year 2023 (7/1/23–6/30/24). The board and/or its designated representatives ensure quality services through a combination of the following:

- Provider performance measures against established performance standards as negotiated between the Board, CEOs and ODJFS are monitored annually;
- Provider performance against additional negotiated performance metrics included in the provider contract or contract amendments are monitored monthly by WDB staff; quarterly by the Performance Committee;
- One-stop operators are required to meet established standards to obtain and retain certification; and
- Experienced workforce consultant conducts annual monitoring and compliance reviews.

Note, every two years, the board intentionally negotiates performance measures with the state that will challenge the local area to continuously improve performance. The Area has been able to meet or exceed all performance measures since Area 2 was established in 2017.

As the WIOA-funded Adult and Dislocated Worker Career Services provider and One-Stop Operator, KRA Corporation has committed to:

- Regularly collecting and analyzing data to measure program effectiveness and make improvements;
- Utilizing a program model that is rooted in human-centered design which focuses on addressing the needs and preferences of jobseekers and employers; and
- Meeting regularly with business and training partners to coordinate events and develop strategic direction for immediate and emerging trends.

2.2 How the Local Board Will Facilitate Access to Services Through Use of Technology or Other Means

Area 2 OMJ centers are mandated, per WIOA Policy Letter 17-01, to register jobseekers and businesses on the OhioMeansJobs.com website to facilitate their activities. Activities to maximize utilization of services include:

- Jobseekers who visit the Area's OMJ websites can interact with a virtual assistant to guide them to the appropriate services;
- Jobseekers have access to online orientation and pre-recorded workshops;
- Jobseekers are taught how to create their resume and use the OhioMeansJobs.com system to post it, find a job, prepare for a career, and develop skills; and
- Job order requests are posted on OhioMeansJobs.com by Business Services staff.

In addition, KRA Corporation has incorporated the following:

- Outreach specialists actively participate in community events and visit businesses, resulting in an increased volume of customers visiting the OMJ center and participating in recruiting events; and

- Workshops and recruiting events are promoted by posting on EventBrite and utilizing Engage by Cell technology for text message notifications.

2.3 How Entities Within OMJ Delivery System Will Comply With Section 188 of WIOA, if Applicable, and Applicable Provisions of the ADA of 1990 Regarding the Physical and Programmatic Accessibility of Facilities, Programs and Services, Technology and Materials for Individuals With Disabilities

Area 2 centers are dedicated to providing access, as directed by WIOA and the ADA, to all members of the public seeking service. As such, our centers provide access via:

- Computer devices for those with visual impairments;
- Handicap accessible doors, including powered doors;
- Sorenson Video Relay Service (VRS) for hearing impaired customers;
- Handicapped-designated parking spaces with ADAAG compliant signage;
- All offices on accessible 1st floor;
- Zero entry access (no change in level at the entrance to building);
- Signs posted to identify areas of available services/goods with raised letters, Grade II Braille; and
- Doors adjusted to 5 lbs. or less to comply with ADAAG.

WIOA requires that centers be assessed and certified at least every three years. This multi-phase certification process requires that centers meet accessibility and service standards to ensure people with disabilities have equitable access to workforce development services. Area 2's comprehensive center located in Summit County and affiliate center in Medina County were last certified in 2022, and will begin the recertification process which is required to be completed by December 31, 2025.

While our centers are fully accessible, true inclusion goes beyond physical accommodations. Staff participate in training provided by Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD) to help them effectively engage and support individuals with disabilities.

2.4 How the Local Board Will Coordinate With the Regional JobsOhio, Team NEO

The Board values its relationship with Team NEO and local economic development organizations.

In collaboration with ConxusNEO, Area 2 sought to gain insights on the change in activities and behaviors of employers and jobseekers in light of the COVID pandemic. Team NEO was contracted to distribute online surveys and conduct focus groups with employers in Summit, Medina and Portage counties to help us gain insights about their challenges in hiring and retaining talent since the onset of the COVID pandemic. 254 survey responses were received and the research was expanded to additional northeast Ohio counties for a total of 766 survey responses. Respondents were invited to participate in virtual and in-person focus groups, resulting in insight gained from 100 employers. The results revealed that 80% of employers faced a talent shortage, 65% experienced higher turnover, 95% did not have a sufficient pool of qualified candidates, 18–30-year-olds were the hardest to recruit and retain, and finding workers interest in full-time positions were the hardest to locate. Employers reported that raising wages and providing bonuses wasn't enough of an incentive to attract or retain workers.

In addition, Summit County has a coordinated business retention and expansion strategy that includes a Team NEO representative who joins us for these site calls and visits. This coordinated approach allows us to present to companies both local and regional assets.

2.5 Roles and Resource Contributions of the OMJ Center Partners

The roles and resource contribution of OMJ center partners in the two centers are informed by:

- The negotiated terms of the MOU governing partnerships in each center;
- The unique set of services that each partner organization provides;
- The integration of services including partner staff rotation in the resource room, presenting workshops, and making referrals;
- Cost sharing throughout the system including facility, management, resource room, equipment and supplies and outreach; and
- Other legal and regulatory factors governing required center partners, including WIOA statute and regulations, and ODJFS guidance in the form of the Ohio Combined Plan and policy letters.

The board's staff will determine if partner entities are meeting statutory and contractual obligations as outlined in the above guiding documents through the contracts with the One-Stop Operators. Where corrective action is determined necessary, the staff shall request the entity responsible to take appropriate corrective action. Preference is given to mutual resolution through dispute mechanisms detailed in the MOU.

Having a partner structure, the OMJ centers benefit from a shared service model. Each partner brings a unique set of services which enhances the resources available to jobseekers and employers. All partners contribute to the day-to-day operations of the One-Stop.

Additional information about the center partners is found in Section 1.1.

3. Description and Assessment of the Type and Availability of Adult and Dislocated Worker Employment and Training Services

On January 31, 2024, SAMWA COG released a Request for Proposals (RFP) to competitively select providers for Career Services for Adults and Dislocated Workers, including Training Services, and Business Services at the Area's two OMJ centers as outlined in WIOA Sections 134 (c)(2) and 134 (c)(3). KRA Corporation was selected and to commence activities on July 1, 2024.

Career Services

Area 2 procures Adult and Dislocated Worker Services through a competitive bidding or award process. The outline of routine services located below describes:

Basic Career Services

- Initial assessment of skill levels, including literacy, numeracy, and English language proficiency, as well as aptitudes and abilities (including skills gaps);
- Supportive service needs assessment;
- Staff-assisted job search assistance;
- Placement assistance (includes job matching, job referrals, and job development);

- Career counseling, including staff-assisted career guidance and provision of information on in-demand industry sectors and occupations, on nontraditional employment, and from career profiles and interest inventories;
- Provision of information and assistance regarding filing claims for unemployment compensation;
- Assistance in establishing eligibility for programs of financial aid; and
- Provision of job club activities.

Individualized Career Services

- Comprehensive and specialized assessments of the skill levels and service needs of adults and dislocated workers, which may include:
 - Diagnostic testing and use of other assessment tools and
 - In-depth interviewing and evaluation to identify employment barriers and appropriate employment goals.
- Development of an Individual Employment Plan (IEP) to identify all the following:
 - Employment goals;
 - Appropriate achievement objectives; and
 - Appropriate combination of services for the participant to achieve the employment goals, including providing information on eligible training providers and career pathways to attain career objectives.
- Individual counseling;
- Career counseling and planning;
- Short-term prevocational services to prepare individuals for unsubsidized employment or training, which include:
 - Development of learning skills;
 - Communication skills;
 - Interviewing skills;
 - Punctuality;
 - Personal maintenance skills; and
 - Professional conduct.
- Internships and work experiences (including transitional jobs) that are linked to careers;
- Workforce preparation activities;
- Financial literacy services;
- Out-of-area job search assistance and relocation assistance;
- English language acquisition and integrated education and training programs; and
- Follow-up services.

In Area 2, the delivery of these services is provided by KRA Corporation, a nationally recognized workforce development provider with decades of experience operating under WIOA standards. KRA ensures that jobseekers receive tailored support through both online and in-person assessments, including the RIASEC tool, which helps individuals identify how their interests and strengths align with local career pathways and personal preferences. Each participant is paired with a Career Coach trained in person-centered career coaching, empowering jobseekers to explore occupations within in-demand sectors that meet quality standards for livable wages, benefits, work-life balance, and advancement opportunities. Individualized employment plans are developed for jobseekers who also participate in a one-week program focused on mastering interviewing and networking skills. This integrated, customer-focused model is designed to

maximize job placement and retention outcomes, while also supporting employers with recruitment, screening, and customized training solutions aligned to regional workforce needs.

Training Services

Area 2 training services are provided under the guidance of State and local policies. Training will be utilized for jobseekers who are unable to otherwise attain or maintain consistent and self-sustaining employment. Training may take one or more of the following forms:

- Occupational skills training, including training for nontraditional employment;
- Registered apprenticeship (which incorporates both on-the-job training (OJT) and classroom training);
- On-the-Job Training (OJT);
- Incumbent Worker Training (IWT);
- Transitional Jobs (TJ);
- Workplace training with related instruction, which may include cooperative education programs;
- Training programs operated by the private sector;
- Skill upgrading and retraining;
- Entrepreneurial training;
- Job readiness training provided in combination with other training services or transitional jobs;
- Adult education and literacy activities, including activities for English Language acquisition and integrated education and training programs, provided concurrently or in combination with other training services; and
- Customized training conducted with a commitment by an employer or group of employers to employ an individual upon successful completion of the training.

In addition to the eligible training providers registered in the state of Ohio's Workforce Inventory of Education and Training (WIET) system, KRA Corporation provides an online learning platform, Metrix Learning, which offers customers access to over 6,000 courses.

4. Comprehensive Case Management Program (CCMEP)

Medina and Summit Counties have each submitted and received approval from ODJFS for a CCMEP plan as directed by Ohio Administrative Code 5101:14-1-03. Currently, each county's Department of Job and Family Services are the lead agencies for the implementation of the CCMEP. The board has the oversight responsibility to ensure the WIOA negotiated youth performance is monitored within the confines of each of the local CCMEP plans. On February 3, 2025, SAMWA COG, Summit County Job and Family Services, and Medina County Job and Family Services jointly released a Request for Proposals (RFP) to competitively select providers for CCMEP. Jobs for Ohio's Graduates (JOG) was selected and to commence activities on July 1, 2025.

5. Local Board and OMJ Center Operator Coordination to Improve Service Delivery and Avoid Duplication of Wagner-Peyser Act Services

The Area 2 WDB will seek to avoid service duplication, maximize service coordination, and provide superior overall service delivery with its partners through the following means:

- Issuing RFPs for center operations for each of the two OMJ centers;

- Execution of ODJFS' Memorandum of Understanding template every two years that addresses service delivery expectations, minimizes duplicative services, and identifies avenues for coordination;
- Engaging in continuous operational improvements in accordance with local policies and OMJ certification;
- Oversight by the One-Stop Operations Committee of the WDB; and
- Maintain regular communication between SAMWA COG and the centers' Operators.

The Reemployment Services and Eligibility Assessment (RESEA) program is designed to supplement the reemployment services provided by the public workforce system; therefore, many RESEA participants are typically co-enrolled in Wagner-Peyser Act Services. In Area 2, the ODJFS staff and, work closely with the SAMWA COG staff who oversee and implement the RESEA program. RESEA staff are onsite at both OMJ centers and provide intensive reemployment assistance to unemployment insurance claimants and ensure seamless access to all available workforce resources. This coordination prevents duplication of Wagner-Peyser Services and supports a comprehensive, integrated approach to serving jobseekers.

6. Description of Executed Cooperative Agreements Defining Service Provider Requirements

The Area 2 WDB is a party to the following agreements that determine the conditions requiring service integration and access to the suite of services available at each county's OMJ center and provider sites, if applicable:

- Career services;
- Services determining WIOA adult and dislocated worker eligibility, standardized assessment, and the provision of case management services for eligible individuals;
- Business services; and
- Services determining WIOA youth eligibility and the provision of case management services for eligible individuals.

7. Identification of Area's Fiscal Agent

The WDB has identified the Area's COG members as its subrecipient for WIOA funding. The [County of Summit's Office of Finance and Budget](#), under the direction of the County Executive, provide fiscal services for the COG. The Summit County Department of Job and Family Services is delegated as a sub-fiscal agent for the County of Summit.

Finance and Budget
Ohio Building – 7th Floor
175 South Main Street
Akron, OH 44308
(330) 643-2574

8. Description of the Competitive Process to Award Subgrants and Contracts for WIOA Title I Activities

The Area WDB staff design procurement solicitations adhering to all applicable WIOA and federal regulations, as set forth within the Area's Acquisition & Procurement policies established in 2017 and most recently amended December 19, 2024. As procurement rules for use of federal funds change, SAMWA COG will update its policy. At minimum, the SAMWA COG will conduct an annual review of procurement rules. At the time of this local plan, SAMWA COG and its sub-grantees and contractors shall use one of the following procurement methods when acquiring goods and/or services paid for in whole or part with federal funds:

1. Micro-Purchase Procedure: Allowable for purchases of up to, but not in excess of, \$10,000.00. May acquire supplies and services without soliciting quotes if price is considered reasonable, and catalog or verbal quotes may be used.
2. Small Purchase Procedure: Allowable for purchases of \$0.01 to \$10,000.00 and required for purchases of \$10,000.01 to \$250,000.00. May acquire supplies or services when receive written quotations or proposals from at least three sources, if available. SAMWA COG must identify and document the evaluation factors and their relative importance. Awards will be made to the responsible source whose proposal is most advantageous to the program, with price and other factors considered. Once a vendor relationship is established, additions, upgrades and changes will be acquired without quotes for the enhancements. The vendor relationship will be reviewed and reevaluated as deemed necessary.
3. Competitive Proposals: Allowable for purchases of \$0.01 to \$250,000.00 and required for purchases of \$250,000.01 and above. Competitive proposals may be used when the conditions are not appropriate for the use of competitive sealed bidding, micro-purchasing, small purchasing, or non-competitive proposals and under the certain conditions. Evaluation factors other than price can only be used when they are clearly explained in the Request for Proposals (RFP) or Request for Quotes (RFQ). Requests for proposals shall identify all evaluation factors and their relative importance and be publicly advertised through various forms of media in each county of Area 2, or on the SAMWA COG website, or both. Proposals shall be solicited from an adequate number of known suppliers. Proposals cannot be reviewed or discussed until the submission deadline passes and SAMWA COG will have a method for conducting technical evaluations of the proposals received and for selecting awardees. Awards will be made to the most responsive and responsible firm whose proposal is most advantageous to the program, with price and other factors considered. SAMWA COG may use competitive proposal procedures for qualification-based procurement of architectural/engineering (A/E) professional services whereby competitor's qualifications are evaluated, and the most qualified competitor is selected, subject to negotiation of fair and reasonable compensation. The method, where price is not used as a selection factor, can only be used in procurement of A/E professional services.

SAMWA COG may use noncompetitive procurement methods only when the award of a contract is not feasible under the micro-purchasing threshold, small purchase procedure, or competitive proposals, and one of the following conditions applies:

1. Sole Source.
2. Best Practical Source.
3. A public emergency need for the requirement will not permit a delay resulting from competitive solicitation.

Adequate justification is required before an award of any dollar amount is made and SAMWA COG will maintain that the required product or service is available only from a single source, unless the service is a public utility (e.g., electric, telephone, gas water, sewer, etc.) or the price is set by law or regulation.

For complete details, the Acquisition and Procurement Policies are found [online](#).

9. Board Actions Taken to Become or Remain a High Performing Board

Area 2 used the passage of WIOA to focus on becoming and remaining a high functioning board. The resulting actions include:

- Regularly scheduled board meetings that are held publicly and available virtually;
- Data utilization to inform and guide board decisions;
- Employer representation that is reflective of senior leaders from in-demand industries;
- As required, the chair and vice-chair positions are reserved for employers; and
- Orientation of new Board members.

The Board will review their activities, policies, and other governing activities on an ongoing basis to ensure excellent performance and address deficiencies.

10. OMJ Center's Commitment to Integrated, Technology-Enabled Intake and Case Management Information Systems

The OMJ centers located within Area 2 utilize the intake, case management, and financial tracking systems provided by ODJFS. These systems include the Advancement through Resources Information and Employment Services (ARIES) in 2022 and the County Financial Information System (CFIS). The OMJ websites are user-friendly. To further enhance service coordination and prevent gaps in support, the public workforce system is exploring how it might integrate its systems with the Unite Us platform which was recently adopted by social service agencies across Summit County that enables real-time data sharing and collaboration among social service agencies to ensure that residents receive seamless and comprehensive assistance.

Part II: ASSURANCES

Area 2, through its Officers and designated Agents, makes the following assurances:

- Area 2 has established and will continue to employ fiscal control and fund accounting procedures to ensure the proper disbursement of, and accounting for all funds received through WIOA ("the Act").
- Area 2 shall keep records that are sufficient to permit the preparation of reports required by WIOA and shall maintain all records, including standardized records for all individual participants, and submit such reports as the State may require.
- Area 2 will collect and maintain data necessary to show compliance with the non-discrimination provisions of the Act.
- Area 2 assures that funds will be spent in accordance with WIOA, regulations, written Department of Labor guidance, written Ohio Department of Job and Family Services guidance, and all other applicable Federal and State laws.
- Area 2 assures that veterans will be afforded employment and training activities authorized in the Jobs for Veterans Act and 20 CFR Part 1010.
- Area 2 assures it will comply with any grant procedures prescribed by the Secretary which are necessary to enter into contracts for the use of funders under WIOA, but not limited to the following:
- General Administrative Requirements – Uniform Guidance at 2 CFR Part 200 and 2 CFR Part 2900.
- Assurances and Certifications – SF 424B – Assurances for Non-Construction Programs; 29 CFR Part 31, 32 – Nondiscrimination and Equal Opportunity Assurance (and Regulation); 29 CFR Part 93 – Certification Regarding Lobbying (and Regulation); 29 CFR Parts 94 and 95 – Drug Free Workplace and Debarment and Suspension; Certifications (and Regulation).

Part III: AREA 2 SIGNATURES

By signing my name below, I hereby attest each of the following for the NOW Regional Plan and the Area 2 Local Plan Addendum, effective from July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2029:

- All of the Assurances indicated in the NOW Regional Plan and of the Area 2 Local Plan Addendum have been met and that this plan represents the Local Area WDB's efforts to maximize resources available under Title I of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act and to coordinate these resources with other state and local programs within the planning region.
- The Area 2 WDB will operate the WIOA program in accordance with the regional plan and applicable federal and state laws, regulations, policies, and rules.

DocuSigned by:

9/17/2025 | 12:03 PM EDT
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for Ilene Shapiro, Executive, County of Summit

Date

Signed by:

9/17/2025 | 9:49 AM EDT
EB6A5B8000A243A...

Colleen Swedyk, Commissioner, Medina County

Date

DocuSigned by:

9/5/2025 | 4:41 PM EDT
31D0A53AE9CB48C...

Christine G. Marshall, Executive Director, Area 2 Workforce Development Board

Date

Signed by:

9/8/2025 | 10:26 AM EDT
721306F954274C9...

Paul Ratcliff, Chair, Area 2 Workforce Development Board

Date

EXHIBITS

Exhibit A Organizational Chart July 2025

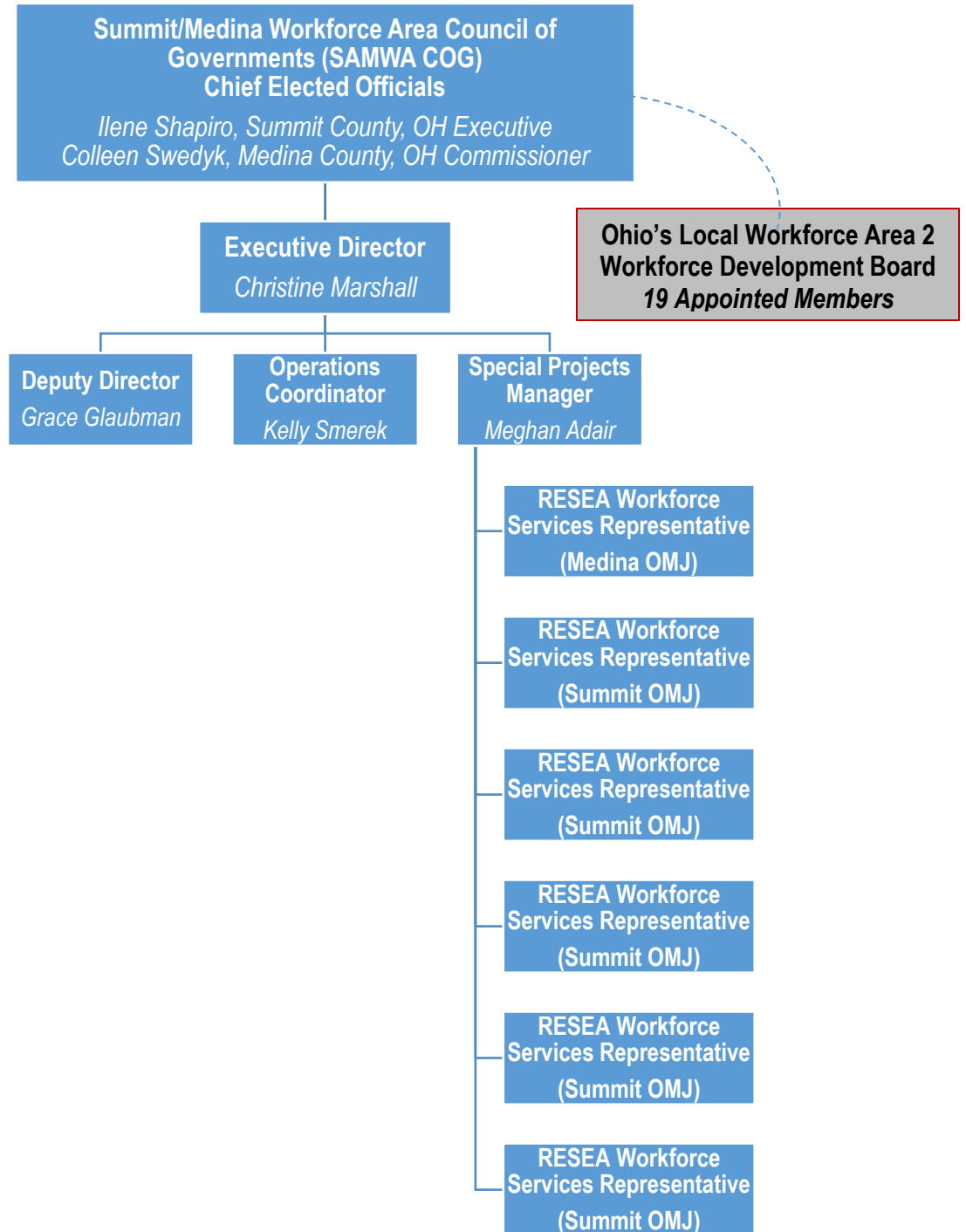


Exhibit B
Area 2 Workforce Development Board
July 2025

Name	Professional Affiliation	County	Representing	Appointments & Committees
Bissell, Jeff	Director of Special Projects & Treasurer, NMG Aerospace	Summit	Business, Manufacturing	Finance Committee
Capozzi, Matthew	Training Director, Akron Area Electrical Joint Apprenticeship and Training Committee	Summit	Labor, JATC	Performance Committee Chair
Chester, John	Executive Board Member, Tri-County Regional Labor Council	Summit	Labor	Performance Committee
Cornute, Jeffrey	Human Resources and Safety Manager, SFS Group	Medina	Business, Manufacturing	
Costa, Malcolm	President & CEO, Community Action Akron Summit	Summit	Community-Based Organization	One-Stop Operations Committee
Dempsey, Patricia	Vocational Rehabilitation Supervisor, Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities	Medina	Government, Vocational Rehabilitation	One-Stop Operations Committee
Dentler, Bethany	Executive Director, Medina County Economic Development Corporation	Medina	Economic/Community Development	One-Stop Operations Committee
Esposito, Anthony	Vice President of IT, People Services, Inc.	Medina	Business, Manufacturing	Finance Committee Chair; Executive Committee
Gdovin, Matthew	Executive Director, NEOnet	Summit	Business, Information Technology	
Heid, Jessica	President, Ameri-Cal Corp.	Medina	Business, Manufacturing	Performance Committee
Kelker, Toya	Community Development Relationship Manager, The Huntington Bank	Summit	Business, Finance	Finance Committee

Kelley, Katie	Director of External Affairs, Akron Rubber Development Laboratory, Inc.	Summit	Business, Polymer Research	
Lane, Amy	Director of Career Services & Workforce Development, Stark State College	Summit	Higher Education	Performance Committee
Miller, Maria	Systems Director, Talent Acquisition, Summa Health	Summit	Business, Healthcare	Finance Committee
Mitchell, Marquita	Executive Director, Project Learn of Summit County	Medina	Provider of Title II Adult Education & Literacy Activities	Performance Committee
Moore, William	Program Delivery Manager, Ohio Department of Job & Family Services	Medina	Government, Wagner-Peyser & VETS Program	One-Stop Operations Committee
Prentice, David	Executive Secretary Treasurer, Tri-County Regional Labor Council	Summit	Labor	Finance Committee
Ramos-Chesnes, Sharlene	President & CEO, True North Global	Summit	Business, Logistics	Board Vice Chair; Executive Committee; Performance Committee; One-Stop Operations Committee Chair
Ratcliff, Paul	COO, V3 Transportation	Medina	Business, Transportation	Board Chair; Executive Committee; One-Stop Operations Committee