

# State of Louisiana



EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER JML 24-44

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## *ESTABLISHMENT OF THE LOUISIANA WORKFORCE AND SOCIAL SERVICES REFORM TASK FORCE*

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**WHEREAS**, Louisiana needs an educated and skilled workforce for employment in diverse occupations and industries;

**WHEREAS**, the Louisiana workforce is increasingly in need of access to high quality education and training programs aligned to the growing technological competencies required in occupations;

**WHEREAS**, Louisiana has over 110,000 unfilled jobs every month, yet a labor force participation rate under 59%;

**WHEREAS**, Louisiana's public workforce system is a maze of confusing and inefficient programs and is not meeting the challenges faced by employers and workers;

**WHEREAS**, a recent legislative audit report of federally-funded workforce and social services identified staggeringly low program outcomes and highlighted the need for a unified vision, integrated service delivery, stronger coordination and partnership, and improved oversight for positive outcomes;

**WHEREAS**, the audit report found that the state needs increased collaboration among agencies and stake holders in order to implement a unified vision and plan for how to best coordinate and administer these programs;

**WHEREAS**, the audit report found that public assistance programs and workforce development programs in Louisiana are overseen and administered by various state agencies such that an individual may have to go through multiple doors to access services;

**WHEREAS**, the audit report found that although Louisiana has a unified Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act state plan, the state still needs increased collaboration among agencies and stakeholders in order to implement a unified vision and plan for how to best coordinate and administer public assistance and workforce development programs;

**WHEREAS**, Louisiana does not have a centralized location that includes a clearing house of the available public assistance programs, how to access them, and eligibility requirements;

**WHEREAS**, Congress is currently considering reauthorization of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) and new opportunities to grant states the ability to pilot comprehensive innovation demonstration programs; and

**WHEREAS**, research has shown that an integrated system of workforce and social services more effectively supports Louisiana's most vulnerable citizens in escaping poverty through targeted supports and work to achieve dignity and self-sufficiency, which not only lifts individuals but also strengthens Louisiana's economy.

**NOW THEREFORE, I, JEFF LANDRY**, Governor of the State of Louisiana, by virtue of the authority vested by the Constitution and laws of the State of Louisiana, do hereby order and direct as follows:

**Section 1:** The Louisiana Workforce Reform Task Force shall be composed of 17 total members representing the following:

- A. The Commissioner of Administration or his designee;
- B. The Secretary of the Louisiana Workforce Commission (LWC) or her designee and one additional staff member having knowledge of workforce programming;
- C. The Secretary of the Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services or his designee and one additional staff member having knowledge of social services programming;
- D. The Secretary of the Louisiana Department of Economic Development or her designee;
- E. The President of the Louisiana Community and Technical College System or his designee;
- F. The State Superintendent of the Louisiana Department of Education or his designee;
- G. The Secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health or his designee;
- H. The Secretary of the Louisiana Department of Veterans Affairs or his designee;
- I. The Secretary of the Louisiana Department of Corrections or his designee;
- J. The Speaker of the Louisiana House of Representatives or his designee;
- K. The President of the Louisiana State Senate or his designee;
- L. The Louisiana Legislative Auditor or his designee;
- M. One (1) member who represents the local workforce development boards authorized under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, appointed by the Secretary of the Louisiana Workforce Commission;
- N. One (1) who represents a non-profit organization providing services throughout Louisiana to individuals in poverty, appointed by the Secretary of the Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services; and
- O. One (1) member who represents employers, appointed by the Governor.

**Section 2:** The duties of the Task Force shall include the following:

- A. Conduct research and collect data on state models for coordinating and fully integrating workforce, social services, education, child care, and health care programs and develop alternative approaches that Louisiana should consider to achieve improved outcomes. Such programs shall prioritize but not be limited to:

- i. Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) programs, including oversight for an integrated regional service delivery system;
  - ii. Unemployment Insurance (UI) program;
  - iii. Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) program;
  - iv. Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program;
  - v. Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP);
  - vi. SNAP Employment and Training Program (SNAP E&T); and
  - vii. Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP).
- B. Conduct research and collect data on performance outcomes of various workforce programs, including an analysis of the number of common participants enrolled in multiple programs across state agencies;
- C. Conduct an asset map that incorporates office locations, case management systems, and customer intake and eligibility procedures the above services and programs;
- D. Issue a final report containing recommendations for the integration of aforementioned services and programs, including any state department or agency reorganizations needed to achieve desired outcomes for the people of Louisiana. The report shall address the following key components:
- i. How current services and programs are organized and administered at the state agency level;
  - ii. A vision for how service delivery can be integrated for the benefit of all Louisianans who rely on such services and programs, including those currently delivered at the state, regional, and local levels;
  - iii. Opportunities for financial integration and efficient methods for allocating costs across multiple services and programs;
  - iv. Recommendations on how supportive services, such as child care, trauma recovery, health insurance, can better support employment outcomes; and
  - v. Identification of efficiencies leading to cost savings that can be used for enhanced services, such as increased resource availability for Louisianans to access education and training.
- E. The Task Force may form work groups of Task Force members to focus on specific issues or topics as needed; and
- F. The Task Force may utilize non-Task Force subject matter experts to facilitate meetings, conduct research, and/or provide technical assistance.

**Section 3:** The Secretary of the Louisiana Workforce Commission and the Secretary of the Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services, or their designees, shall serve as co-chairs of the Task Force and shall jointly convene the first meeting no later than May 1, 2024. The Louisiana Workforce Commission shall provide staff support to the Task Force as needed.

**Section 4:** The Secretary of the Louisiana Workforce Commission shall provide updates for members of the Task Force relative to efforts by the United States Congress to reauthorize and reform the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, including, but not limited to, opportunities to incorporate recommendations contained within the final report through new

demonstration and waiver authority or other changes to current federal laws. The final report shall identify opportunities for Louisiana to participate in any federally-authorized workforce demonstration project, including specific provisions requiring waiver requests.

Section 5: The Task Force's final report shall be provided to the Governor and each member of the Louisiana Legislature no later than January 31, 2025.

Section 6: Task Force members shall not receive additional compensation or a per diem from the Office of the Governor for serving on the Task Force.

A Task Force member who is an employee or an elected public official of the State of Louisiana or a political subdivision thereof may seek reimbursement of travel expenses, in accordance with PPM 49, from his or her employing and/or elected department, agency and/or office.

Section 7: All departments, commissions, boards, agencies and officers of the State, or any political subdivision thereof, are authorized and directed to cooperate in actions the State may take in response to this event.

Section 8: This order is effective upon signature of the Governor, and it shall remain in effect until the Task Force has provided the final report in Section 2 to the Governor, or until amended, modified, terminated or rescinded by the Governor, or until terminated by operation of law.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have set my hand officially and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of Louisiana in the City of Baton Rouge, on this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of March 2024.

  
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Jeff Landry  
GOVERNOR OF LOUISIANA

ATTEST BY THE SECRETARY  
OF STATE

  
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Nancy Landry  
SECRETARY OF STATE