## PUBLIC NOTICE AND REQUEST FOR COMMENT Southern Indiana Works 2125 State Street, Ste. #16 New Albany, IN 47150

The following section of the Southern Indiana Works Regional Bi-State WIOA Plan is under consideration for modification and submission to the Indiana Department of Workforce Development Planning and Policy Division:

**3.7** Based on the analysis described in Section 1.1-1.3, describe plans to focus efforts and resources on serving priority of service populations in the local area, including how this will be managed. Include any other priority populations the local area will focus on.

## Southern Indiana Works:

Southern Indiana Works' focus under WIOA is to ensure that individuals with barriers have access to quality services and opportunities to increase skills, education, and employment. Our priority target populations are outlined in local Priority of Service Policy, and as defined in WIOA sec.134(c)(3)(E) as recipients of public assistance, low-income individuals, and individuals who are deficient in basic skills. Programs and services are promoted to an active network of one-stop partners to ensure availability and access to these priority populations.

SIW has identified two additional populations to include in adult services under WIOA. SIW understands that digital literacy has become a fundamental skill needed by all local and regional business. These skills are as vital as math and reading in the 21<sup>st</sup> century global economy. SIW and our partners will assess individuals for digital literacy and those who fall below a literate level will be considered adult priority.

In addition underemployed adults that are working but not meeting economic levels that provide for self-sufficiency or those who have taken emergency transition jobs that underutilize their knowledge, skills, and abilities are a populations identified by SIW to target as adult priority.

Some key partnerships include, but are not limited to adult education, vocational rehabilitation, Community Action Southern Indiana, and New Albany Housing Authority (HUD). Some of these partners have established on-site access to services; however, all are part of our community referral network. Program outreach is also conducted with area faith-based networks, as well as community shelter and food assistance programs. Our one-stop network hosts monthly virtual meetings which provides a forum for promotion of policies, initiatives and program services to a wide array of community partners. Our data is reviewed monthly to track goals of achieving priority of service targets.

## Questions and public comments regarding the modification to section 3.7 of the Southern Indiana Works Regional Bi-State Plan can be sent to the contact below:

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