

GSETA Monitoring Committee 8/19/26 Meeting Minutes

Key Highlights & Presentations

1. PY24–PY25 Monitoring Reviews & Governance Updates

Presenter: Raul Ludizaca, Supervisor, Employment and Training Programs
WIOA Program Oversight and Development
NJ Department of Labor and Workforce Development

Monitoring Reviews Overview

- PY24 Title I and RESEA reports have been completed, with local area responses submitted.
- PY25 governance monitoring uses a limited-scope tool due to structural changes within NJDOL Career Services.
- Consolidated governance, policy, and procurement findings will be issued in the comprehensive Governance Monitoring Report expected September 2026.
- Cross-unit monitoring review is scheduled for October 2026, involving NJDOL staff and LWDB leadership.

PY24 WIOA Policy Review Status

- Initial policy reviews and reports issued October 2025; update deadline was May 2026.
- Monitors are verifying required policies and components across WDB websites.
- Final findings will be merged into the upcoming governance monitoring report.
- Local areas will be able to submit corrective action plans following report release.

Title I & RESEA Consolidated Review Approach

- PY24 consolidated reviews were finalized in February 2026.
- Combined monitoring format will continue, with the next cycle starting January 2027.
- October cross-unit session will align processes across NJDOL monitoring groups.

Procurement Review Updates

- Draft procurement reports released July 2026, with valuable local documentation resulting in four findings downgraded to concerns.
- Final procurement outcomes will be integrated into the 2026 governance report.
- August 3rd clarification letters specified items removed from the final report for accuracy and transparency.

Governance Monitoring Adjustments

- Workforce New Jersey's integration into NJDOL Career Services resulted in a narrowed monitoring scope for PY25.
- Several tool questions were removed or reclassified as concerns until updated statewide guidance is issued next year.
- Full-scope governance monitoring (including fiscal agent elements) will return in the next cycle.

Compliance & Stakeholder Engagement

- Five local areas received status updates on PY22 findings; twelve areas have fully resolved prior issues.
- Invitations for the October cross-unit meeting will focus on LWDB leadership involvement.

Governance Monitoring Process & Local Area Responsibilities

Transition to Limited Scope Tool

- Fiscal agent and contract execution questions deferred pending updated statewide governance guidance.
- Semiannual IFAs replace quarterly reconciliations to reduce burden.
- Risk-focused areas such as committee transparency and policy accessibility emphasized.
- Local and regional plan review will be quantitative (update frequency), not qualitative.

Local Area Responsibilities

- Review monitoring tools and document checklists early to avoid findings.
- Submit governance documents (board membership, bylaws, minutes) promptly.
- Assign staff to track monitoring responses and deadlines to prevent reminder letters.
- Combined PY25 governance report expected September 2026.

Guidance Availability

- Updated guidance materials and meeting slides will be posted on NJWINS.
- Ongoing updates aim to ensure consistency between monitoring tools and statewide guidance.

2. Policy and Programmatic Updates

John Bicica, NJDOL

Selective Service Eligibility

- Selective Service no longer provides status letters for males over 26.
- Local areas must make determinations based on documented policy rules.
- Males entering the US after age 26 are exempt from registration requirements.
- Policies must clearly define documentation and exclusion criteria.

CDL Training Requirements

- New guidance requires CDL trainees to demonstrate English proficiency.
- Integrated education supports may be provided for those needing language development.
- Summary guidance to be distributed.

Workforce Pell Grants

- Short-term Pell-eligible programs will follow similar approval paths to traditional Pell.

- Initial program approvals will be limited but expected to grow.
- ITAs may be issued with reimbursement contingent on FAFSA-based Pell eligibility.

Income Verification

- Self-attestation for income is no longer accepted.
 - Participants must provide tax or standard income documentation.
 - Further guidance forthcoming.
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3. Core Monitoring Guide

No discussion

4. Training Provider Monitoring & Risk Assessment

Challenges & Shared Practices

- Committee encouraged sharing best practices

Monitoring Prioritization

- Recommended annual schedules focusing on providers with:
 - prior issues
 - high costs but low outcomes
 - concentration in high-risk sectors
- Longer programs receive deeper monitoring.

Financial Stability

- Financial audits/statements critical to ensure providers can operate without reliance on program funds.
- Reviews during master agreement renewals help identify financially unstable providers.

Performance Outcomes

- Master agreements include minimum credential attainment and wage outcomes.
- Employment verification and wage tracking used to measure ROI.
- Removing employment holdbacks improved provider relationships and outcome commitments.

Incumbent Worker Training

- Monitoring is less intensive.
 - Wage increases and equitable employer practices remain focus areas.
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5. Collaboration and Information Sharing on Training Providers

Liability & Confidentiality Concerns

Historical Practices

- Past committee discussions on common vendor issues helped maintain statewide consistency.
- Informal sharing prevented escalation of vendor challenges.

Standing Agenda Item

- Agreement reached to add a recurring agenda item for ETPL vendor issues and training provider questions.

State-Level Complaint Processes

- Complaints are routed to agencies based on provider type (DOT, DOH, etc.).
 - NJDOL staff are developing clearer guidance.
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6. Administrative Notes & Logistics

Minute Taking

- Christian Estevez volunteered to take minutes for future meetings.

Committee Collaboration

- Continued sharing of monitoring tools and best practices encouraged.
 - Committee thanked Monica VanPelt for extensive insights and contributions.
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Action Items From the Meeting

For Raul Ludizaca

- Share presentation materials.

For Local Area Staff

- Review NJDOL monitoring tools and documentation checklists; submit questions early.

For John Bicica & Related NJDOL Staff

- Issue updated income verification guidance (self-attestation removed).
- Provide guidance on complaint handling processes and state agency roles.

For Kelly O'Neill McGuire

- Add standing agenda item.

For Committee Members

- Explore policies and consider liability concerns regarding possible monitoring report sharing.