



MOHAVE/LA PAZ COUNTIES LOCAL WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AREA WORKFORCE INNOVATION AND OPPORTUNITY ACT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY LOCAL PLAN MODIFICATIONS JANUARY 1, 2025 – DECEMBER 31, 2028

The Mohave-La Paz Local Workforce Development Area (LWDA) has prepared this Local Plan Two Year Modification to ensure the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Local Plan reflects current labor market conditions, regional workforce priorities, and required planning updates. These modifications strengthen the plan while maintaining its overall vision, goals, and strategic direction.

Building on this strong foundation, the Local Workforce Development Area continues to position its workforce system to meet evolving economic conditions and employer needs. Through refined target industry sectors, an increased emphasis on high-impact training, the successful implementation of the Advanced Manufacturing Training Center, updated performance expectations, and the integration of emerging technologies and Artificial Intelligence across priority sectors, the Local Workforce Development Area remains well positioned to support regional economic growth and prepare employers, workers, and communities for the workforce of the future.

Updated Regional Data

The Local Plan has been updated to reflect the most current labor market and demographic information available. This includes revised unemployment indicators, educational attainment rates, and other regional workforce data that provide an updated picture of the economic conditions across Mohave and La Paz Counties. Although these changes are relatively minor compared to previous reporting periods, they ensure the Local Plan continues to be supported by current data and accurately reflects the workforce environment in which local strategies are being implemented.

Refinement of Target Industry Sectors

The Local Workforce Development Area continues to utilize a sector-based strategy to align workforce investments with industries that drive the regional economy. As part of this modification, the target industry sectors have been refined to reflect changing labor market conditions and emerging opportunities.

Natural Resources and Mining has been added as a priority sector in recognition of

projected industry growth and increasing workforce demand within the region. Information Technology has been removed as a stand-alone target sector; however, technology occupations, digital skills, and the integration of Artificial Intelligence (AI) continue to be recognized as essential drivers of workforce innovation across all industries. Rather than functioning as independent sector strategies, these competencies are embedded throughout the workforce development approach to strengthen business competitiveness, improve worker productivity, and prepare both employers and job seekers for the increasing use of technology and AI-enabled solutions in the workplace. In addition, Leisure and Hospitality has been removed as a targeted sector to better align workforce investments with current regional economic priorities.

The Local Workforce Development Area will continue to focus its sector strategies on Transportation and Logistics, Manufacturing, Construction, Healthcare and Social Assistance, and Natural Resources and Mining, while ensuring that technology, digital literacy, and emerging Artificial Intelligence competencies are integrated across each priority sector to support long-term regional economic growth.

Increased Emphasis on High-Impact Training

This modification further strengthens the Local Plan's commitment to high-impact training opportunities that prepare individuals for employment in occupations identified within the target industry sectors. Workforce investments will continue to prioritize training that leads to industry-recognized credentials, supports career pathway development, and addresses the workforce needs identified by regional employers. This approach ensures that training resources are aligned with occupations that offer long-term employment opportunities and contribute to the economic vitality of the region.

Advanced Manufacturing Training Center

Since the adoption of the original Local Plan, one of the region's most significant workforce initiatives has transitioned from planning to implementation. The Advanced Manufacturing Training Center, which was under development during the original planning process, is now fully operational and has become an established workforce resource serving both Mohave and La Paz Counties.

The Center provides advanced manufacturing training, customized workforce development services, and community training opportunities that support both employers and job seekers. As a permanent regional asset, the Center expands access to industry-driven training and strengthens the Local Workforce Development Area's capacity to respond to evolving employer needs while supporting workforce development across the region.

Performance Accountability and Supporting Updates

The Local Plan Modification also incorporates updated Local Performance Levels for Program Years 2026–2027, the current Occupations in Demand⁹(OID) List, and revised supporting documents and required resource links. These updates ensure the Local Plan remains consistent with current state guidance, reflects the latest available workforce information, and supports implementation throughout the modification period.