

## WIOA Title I Complaint/Grievance Procedure

**Local Workforce Development Area Name:** Buffalo and Erie County Workforce Investment Board, Inc. (WIB)

**Designated Grievance Officer:** Danielle Sullivan, HR Manager

Phone: (716) 819-9845 ext. 110

Email: dsullivan@wdcinc.org

**Designated Hearing Officer:** Lavon Stephens, Administrative Director

Phone: (716) 819-9845 ext. 104

Email: lstephens@wdcinc.org

1. The process starts when a complaint/grievance is filed with the Grievance Officer. The officer must log the complaint, and review it to seek a resolution.
  - a. Note, while not required, customers are encouraged to file complaints using the Customer Complaint Information Form (Attachment C). This same form can be utilized to file complaints under the Title III Wagner-Peyser program and/or for discrimination complaints filed under Section 188 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity. Appropriate procedure should be followed when filing a complaint in those cases.
2. A hearing will be scheduled at least thirty (30) calendar days, but no more than forty-five (45) calendar days, from the filing of the complaint/grievance to provide the person or entity (Complainant) with an opportunity to present witnesses and other evidence.
  - a. Notice of the grievance hearing shall be in writing and include: the date, the time, and place of hearing; a statement of the law and regulations under which the hearing is to be held, and a short and clear statement of the complaint/grievance.
  - b. Note that if the Grievance Officer is successful in reaching an informal resolution with the Complainant prior to the date of the scheduled hearing, the scheduled hearing will be adjourned.
3. At the Local Area level, a written Decision must be issued to the Complainant by the Hearing Officer within sixty (60) calendar days of the filing of the complaint/grievance.
4. Complainants not in receipt of a written decision within sixty (60) calendar days of filing the complaint/grievance have the right to request a State Level review. Such a request must be filed within fifteen (15) calendar days from the date on which the Complainant should have received a written decision. The request for State Level Review must be filed with the State Level Grievance Officer. State level appeals must be submitted by certified mail, return receipt requested to:

State Level Grievance Officer  
New York State Department of Labor  
W. Averell Harriman State Office Building Campus  
Building 12, Room 440  
Albany, New York 12240-0001

5. The Complainant also has the right to request a State Level review of an adverse decision issued by the Local Level Hearing Officer. Such request must be filed with the State Level Grievance Officer within ten (10) calendar days of receipt of the adverse decision.
6. State Level Review shall only proceed to the extent that a Local level hearing has been held, findings of fact made, and a decision rendered. If not, the State Level Grievance Officer shall return the complaint/grievance to the Local Level Grievance Officer with instructions on how to complete the review and hearing process.
7. To the extent that Local Level Hearing is complete, requests to review the Local Level Hearing decision shall be limited to any allegations of procedural errors or errors in interpreting or applying the law. Findings of Fact must occur at the Local Level. Any finding at the State Level indicating that errors were made at the Local Level in making Findings of Fact will be returned to the Local Level for further review.
8. If a State Level Review is requested, the State Level Grievance Officer shall investigate the complaint/grievance, seek resolution, and issue a written decision within sixty (60) calendar days of receipt of a request for a review by a Complainant.
9. A hearing will be scheduled at least thirty (30) calendar days, but no more than forty-five (45) calendar days, from the filing of the complaint/grievance.
  - a. Note that if the State Level Grievance Officer is successful in reaching an informal resolution with the Complainant prior to the date of the scheduled hearing, the scheduled hearing will be adjourned.
10. Complainants either not given a hearing or who did not receive a hearing decision within sixty (60) calendar days of requesting State Level Review, and which were not remanded back to the Local Level, have the right to request a Federal Level Review. Such a request must be filed within fifteen (15) calendar days from the date on which the Complainant should have received a written decision.
11. Complainants in receipt of a written State Level hearing decision, have the right to request a Federal Level Review. Such a request must be filed within ten (10) calendar days from the date on which Complainant received the written hearing decision. Such requests must allege either procedural violations or errors in interpreting or applying the law at the lower level hearing. Federal Level Appeals must be submitted by certified mail, return receipt requested, to the Secretary, U.S. Department of Labor, Washington, DC 20210, Attention: ASET. A copy of the appeal must be simultaneously provided to the appropriate ETA Regional Administrator (address below) and the opposing party.

U.S. Department of Labor  
Employment and Training Administration  
25 New Sudbury St  
John F. Kennedy Federal Building, Room E-350  
Boston, MA 02203

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