1. Current workforce development to economic growth strategies:
   - Current workforce development programs and the Maine Jobs Council will take steps to engage in a dialog with employers, educators, and policymakers to understand their workforce needs.

2. Develop the skills needed for low-wage workers to advance in their careers.
   - We need to promote barrier-free employment and training opportunities for low-wage workers, including women and people with disabilities; and provide opportunities for lifelong learning to help them better understand the demands of the modern workforce.

3. Provide opportunities for lifelong learning and expand individual and institutional training programs.
   - We need to increase access to higher education and build a richer pool of talent that can alleviate the financial burden on single employers.

4. Build support for workers to manage their careers.
   - We need to further develop low-wage worker training programs, including on-the-job training and credentials, to support workers in their career advancement.

Current and/or Proposed Strategies:

- Develop the skills needed for low-wage workers to advance in their careers.
- Provide opportunities for lifelong learning and expand individual and institutional training programs.
- Build support for workers to manage their careers.

3. Identify industries of the state that need the most attention and development.
   - We need to identify industries that need the most attention and development to support the state’s economic growth.

4. Support innovative entrepreneurship and microenterprise development.
   - We need to support innovative entrepreneurship and microenterprise development to support the state’s economic growth.

Current and/or Proposed Strategies:

- Support innovative entrepreneurship and microenterprise development.

5. Create effective governance and accountability structures among workforce development programs and between workforce development programs and human service providers.
   - We need to create effective governance and accountability structures among workforce development programs and between workforce development programs and human service providers.

Current and/or Proposed Strategies:

- Establish joint governance between workforce development programs and human service programs.
- Develop cost-effective measures to monitor workforce development program performance and activity.
- Build an effective workforce development system that is positioned to support and promote workforce diversity, economic and human development, and community-based service providers.

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The Workforce Development System
Guiding Principles
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The Maine Jobs Council works with and among a number of partner organizations. Working with the Maine Workforce Investment Boards, over 100 employers have been engaged, and a cadre of regional leaders continue to be engaged.

Commission on Disability and Employment
The Disability Committee reorganized in 2005 and developed operational procedures and bylaws. The committee played an active role in the Portland Women's Employment Issues Committee study of Maine State Government discrimination against women. The committee submitted a report to the Maine Legislature noting the return on investment on the Maine Apprenticeship Council and its connection to the Charlotte White Center, a nonprofit social services organization in Ellsworth.

Apprenticeship Committee
The Apprenticeship Committee continues working on projects with a number of partner organizations. Working with the Maine Workforce Investment Boards, over 100 employers have been engaged, and a cadre of regional leaders continue to be engaged.

Committee membership from 34% to 51% to be more of a demand-driven system.

Aligning the MJC Goals with Governor Baldacci’s Economic Development Strategy:
The Maine Jobs Council has focused on three major objectives over the last year:

4. What was the purpose of the Maine Jobs Council?

5. Who were the members of the Maine Jobs Council?

6. What were the main objectives of the Maine Jobs Council in 2005/2006?

7. What were the key achievements of the Maine Jobs Council in 2005/2006?

8. What were the challenges faced by the Maine Jobs Council in 2005/2006?

9. How did the Maine Jobs Council collaborate with other organizations?

10. What was the impact of the Maine Jobs Council's work on the Maine workforce development system?