



Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act (WIOA) Overview

August 14, 2014

Background

- President signed the **WIOA** into law on July 22, 2014.
- Designed to help job seekers access employment, education, training, & support services
- Designed to match employers with skilled workers needed to compete in the global economy.
- Bicameral/Bipartisan support
- First legislative reform of public workforce system in 15 years
- Reauthorizes the WIA through fiscal year 2020

Key Provisions - WIB

- Reduces number of required members for WIB.
- Emphasizes regional planning and service delivery.
- Encourages adoption/expansion of following best practices:
 - career pathways (including integrated or contextualized ABE, ESL, and occupational training);
 - industry or sector partnership (local WIBs are required to “convene, use, or implement” sector partnerships); and
 - increased focus on the attainment of industry-recognized certificates and credentials linked to in-demand occupations.

Key Provisions – Job Center Operations

- Requires CWIB to establish criteria for accessing effectiveness and continuous improvement of Job Centers every 3 years.
- Eliminates “sequence of services,” and combines core and intensive services into a new “career services” category.
- Provides the ability to fund training services through contractual arrangements, expanding opportunities for community colleges to participate.

Key Provisions - Adults

- *Creates a single set of common measures for adults across all core programs authorized under the bill, including both occupational training and adult education programs. Adult measures include:*
 - unsubsidized employment;
 - median earnings;
 - receipt of a secondary diploma or recognized postsecondary credential;
 - measurable skills gains toward a credential or employment; and
 - employer engagement.

Key Provisions - Youth

- Emphasizes improving the transition from education to employment for youth with disabilities.
- Requires 75% of youth funding to support Out-of-School Youth.
- Expands the age range for Out-of-School youth to 24.
- Requires 20% of youth funding to be prioritized for work-based activities including summer employment, paid and unpaid work experiences, pre-apprenticeships, and internships.

Timeline

- Effective July 1, 2015
- Draft Rules Released by January 2015
 - Review & Comment Period
- Possibility of Interim Rules