



# National Association of Workforce Boards

## NAWB Summary of The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) is an historic investment given its breadth and funding levels in our nation's core infrastructure: roads and bridges, rail, transit, ports, airports, the electric grid, water systems, and broadband. The IIJA is being promoted as making a down payment on the infrastructure needed for a low-carbon economy that helps reduce emissions, cleans our water, and promotes higher air quality. \$550 billion in new spending is appropriated over five years and is fully paid for.

There are various grants and programs listed below that workforce development boards may be eligible to participate in or may be impacted by. The Digital Equity Act will have the largest impact on WDBs and provides \$2.75 billion in grant programs to promote digital literacy training, devices access programs, workforce development, and digital inclusion measures.

Attached with this document is the text of the IIJA, and each section below references the pages in which the legislative language can be found. The sections that we deemed more relevant to workforce boards have been summarized. Depending on the regulations, the role WDBs may play in the training and workforce development activities may vary. If you have any questions or would like more details on any part of IIJA, please contact Kyle Marinelli (marinellik@nawb.org).

### **Division A – Surface Transportation**

#### **Title I – Federal-Aid Highways**

##### **Subtitle A – Authorizations and Programs**

Sec. 11123. Wildlife crossing safety. 71 – 78

- Develop a series of in-person and online workforce development and technical training courses to reduce wildlife-vehicle collisions and improve habitat connectivity for terrestrial and aquatic species.

##### **Subtitle B – Planning and Performance Management**

Sec. 11203. State Human Capital Plans. 91 – 92

##### **Subtitle D – Climate Change**

Sec. 11401. Grants for charging and fueling infrastructure. 118 – 125

### **Title III – Research, Technology, and Education**

Sec. 13006. Research and technology development and deployment. 202 – 211

Sec. 13007. Workforce development, training, and education. 211 – 213

- Encourages coordination and partnership between stakeholders, government agencies, industry and **workforce development boards**.
- Section 504(e) of title 23 is amended to grant States more flexibility to address surface transportation workforce activities that address current workforce gaps, such as work on construction projects, develop a robust surface transportation workforce with new skills resulting from emerging transportation technologies, and activities to attract new sources of job-creating investment.
- Section 504(f) of title 23, is amended as the “Transportation Education and Training Development and Deployment Program,” expanding grant eligibility. The amendment also authorizes grants to develop, test, and review new curricula and education programs to train individuals at all levels of the transportation workforce or implement new curricula and education programs to provide hands-on career opportunities to meet current and future needs.

Sec. 13009. Transportation Resilience and Adaptation Centers of Excellence. 214 – 216

Sec. 13010. Transportation access pilot program. 216 – 218

## **Division B – Surface Transportation Investment Act of 2021**

### **Title II – Rail**

Sec. 22413. Rail research and development center of excellence. 316

### **Title III – Motor Carrier Safety**

Sec. 23005. Commercial motor vehicle enforcement training and support. 332

Sec. 23007. Promoting women in the trucking workforce. 333 – 336

- Creates the “Women of Trucking Advisory Board” that reviews and reports on policies that provide education and training, recruitment, retention, or advancement of women in the industry.

Sec. 23022. Apprenticeship pilot program. 350 - 354

- A 3-year pilot program that allows employers to create an apprenticeship program for individuals under the age of 21 to drive commercial motor vehicles on in interstate commerce. 3,000 apprentices are limited to this program at any given time.

### **Title V – Research and Innovation**

Sec. 25005. Strengthening mobility and revolutionizing transportation grant program. 412 – 417

Sec. 25006. Electric vehicle working group. 417 – 421

Sec. 25019. Local hiring preference for construction jobs. 447 – 448

Sec. 25020. Transportation workforce development. 448 – 450

- The National Academy of Sciences will develop and submit a workforce needs assessment that addresses the education, recruitment, workforce development, and barriers to employment of technical workers for the intelligent transportation technologies and systems industry.
- A working group will be established to address the assessment's findings and a public service campaign will be executed to increase awareness of career opportunities.

Sec. 25022. GAO cybersecurity recommendations. 450 – 451

#### **Division C – Transit**

Sec. 30007. Public transportation innovation. 472 – 475

#### **Division D – Energy**

##### **Title I – Grid Infrastructure and Resiliency**

###### **Subtitle B – Cybersecurity**

Sec. 40125. Enhance grid security. 526 – 528

- Create workforce development curricula for energy sector-related cybersecurity.

##### **Title II – Supply Chains for Clean Energy Technologies**

Sec. 40207. Battery Processing and Manufacturing. 535 – 543

Sec. 40210. Critical Minerals mining and recycling research. 550 – 555

Sec. 40211. 21<sup>st</sup> Century Energy Workforce Advisory Board. 555 – 558

- Advisory board will create a strategy for the Department of Energy that supports the development of a skilled energy workforce. Tasks within the developed strategy include developing plans to support and retrain displaced and unemployed energy sector workers as well as prioritizing education and job training for underrepresented groups.

##### **Title IV – Enabling Energy Infrastructure Investment and Data Collection**

###### **Subtitle B – Energy Information Administration**

Sec. 40417. Plan for the National Energy Modeling System. 617 – 618

##### **Title V – Energy Efficiency and Building Infrastructure**

###### **Subtitle A – Residential and Commercial Energy Efficiency**

Sec. 40503. Energy auditor training grant program. 628 – 629

- Establishment of a competitive grant program under which the Secretary of Energy will award grants to eligible States to train individuals to conduct energy audits or surveys of commercial and residential buildings. \$40 million will be awarded for fiscal years 2022 through 2026.

###### **Subtitle B - Buildings**

Sec. 40511. Cost-effective codes implementation for efficiency and resiliency. 630 – 631

Sec. 40512. Building, training, and assessment centers. 631 – 632

Sec. 40513. Career skills training. 632 – 633

- Awards grants that pay 50% of the cost of carrying out a career skills training program under which students concurrently receive classroom instruction and on-the-job training for the purpose of obtaining an industry-related certification to install energy efficient buildings technologies. \$10 million is authorized.

## **Division E – Drinking Water and Wastewater Infrastructure**

### **Title II – Clean Water**

Sec. 50211. Water infrastructure and workforce investment. 742 – 743

- Reauthorizes and amends the existing competitive grant program that promotes workforce development within the water utility sector. Community-based organizations and public works departments or agencies are to align water and wastewater utility workforce recruitment efforts, training programs, retention efforts, and community resources with wastewater utilities. \$5 million is authorized for fiscal years 2022 through 2026.

## **Division F – Broadband**

### **Title III – Digital Equity Act of 2021**

Sec. 60304. State Digital Equity Capacity Grant Program. 784 – 794

- Grant program that's purpose is to promote the achievement of digital equity, support of digital inclusion activities, and build capacity for efforts by States relating to the adoption of broadband by residents of those States.
- The governor of State may select an administering entity to oversee the State's Digital Equity Plan. Eligible entities include: the state, a political subdivision, agency, or instrumentality of the state, or native tribal entities; a foundation, corporation, institution, association or coalition that is not-for-profit and not a school; a community anchor institution, other than a school; a local educational agency; a **workforce development program agency**; an agency that administers or supervises adult education and literacy activities; a public or multi-family housing authority; or partnerships between any of the described entities.
- An eligible State must develop a State Digital Equity Plan which includes barriers to digital equity, measurable objectives, broadband accessibility to populations, impact assessments, and collaborations.
- \$60 million in Planning Grants will be awarded to eligible states in the first fiscal year and State Capacity Grants total \$1.44 billion from FY22 through FY26. Both are subject to a formula for disbursement:
  - 50% based upon population
  - 25% based upon covered populations
  - 25% based upon comparative lack of availability and adoption of broadband
  - Minimum award no less than 0.5%

Sec. 60305. Digital Equity Competitive Grant Program. 794 – 803

- Grant program established in the Department of Commerce that's purpose is to award grants to support efforts to achieve digital equity, promote digital inclusion activities, and spur greater adoption of broadband among covered populations.
- The Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information may award a grant under the program to any of the following entities that are not or have served as the administrating entity under the Capacity Grant Program described in Sec. 60304: a political subdivision, agency, or instrumentality of the state, or native tribal entities; a foundation, corporation, institution, or association that is not-for-profit and not a school; a community anchor institution; a local educational agency; **a workforce development program entity**; or partnerships between any of the described entities or partnership with an entity that the Assistant Secretary determines to be in the public interest.
- Entities must submit an application that outlines expenditures, justification of grant request amount, capability of the applicant and disclosure of other funding sources.
- \$1.5 billion will be awarded from FY22 though FY26. Factors considered in awarding grants include potential increases to access and the adoption of broadband, comparative geographic diversity, and the extent to which an application may duplicate or conflict with another program.
- Federal share of a project may not exceed 90% without a petition.

## **Title VI – Telecommunications Industry Workforce**

Sec. 60602. Telecommunications interagency working group. 818 – 821

Sec. 60603. Telecommunications workforce guidance. 821

- In partnership with the Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission, the Secretary of Labor will issue guidance on how State's can utilize WDBs to promote and improve workforce development programs and safety within the telecommunications workforce

Sec. 60604. GAO assessment of workforce needs of the telecommunications industry. 821 – 822

## **Division K – Minority Business Development**

### **Title IV – Minority Business Development Grants**

Sec. 100401. – Grants to nonprofit organizations that support minority business enterprises. 1033 – 1035