



2023 Legislative Priorities

Workforce Development Boards (WDBs) are the convenors, collaborators, and navigators of the workforce ecosystem facilitating opportunities that drive local economic growth. Federal Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act (WIOA) dollars increasingly make up a smaller portion of WDB's funding as regional needs have outpaced WIOA allocations and WDBs work to supplement this investment with other federal, state, and local resources. To effectively leverage WDB's position within communities, workforce development and adjacent programs must be further aligned to promote operational efficiencies that benefit both workers, employers, and other important workforce stakeholders.

Strengthen & Align Investments in Workforce Development

- Substantially increase funding for core Title I WIOA funding streams including youth, adults, and dislocated workers to ensure local WDBs have the necessary resources to meet demand and provide quality services to both workers and employers
- Leverage WDBs' position as convenors, collaborators, and navigators of local workforce ecosystems by proactively affirming local WDB budget authority for the planning and synchronization of federal workforce development and related programs
- Organize federal workforce development activities, such as efficacy measures, mandates, and administrative requirements, to ensure the public workforce system can effectively and efficiently respond to strategic economic goals

Improve Workforce Data Infrastructure

- Establish a public-private national workforce data exchange or clearinghouse that utilizes standardized learning and employment records to reduce reporting and collection costs, promote interoperability, and increase data quality, value, and timeliness
- Align data infrastructure and data collection requirements between federal workforce development programs and postsecondary education programs to provide transparent outcomes measurements that reveal federal funding ROIs and heighten program quality
- Support state longitudinal P20W data systems with a particular emphasis on efforts to promote data sharing among states and integration of data systems within states



Expand Opportunities and Access to High-Quality Training

- Expand Pell Grant eligibility for students enrolled in high-quality short-term skills and job training programs while utilizing existing WIOA functions to align programs with in-demand career pathways or registered apprenticeship programs, as proposed by the JOBS Act (S. 161)
- In future WIOA legislation, broaden the definition for training and training costs to include expenses that enable the successful completion of a credential (i.e. training-enabling services such as, transportation, childcare, etc.)
- Remove the arbitrary 20% restriction of funds on Incumbent Worker Training and increase transitional jobs cap within WIOA
- Allow local WDBs to determine the appropriate mix of WIOA youth funds to connect the direction of local youth workforce investment resources more tightly to the actual needs of local communities

Promote Lifelong Learning

- Expand funding for ITAs and tie this funding to mechanisms that account for increased worker demand during times of economic downturns for training purposes that enable employers to quickly fill in-demand positions while also ensuring workers successfully complete programs
- Create a hybrid training provider model that allows WDBs to utilize training providers who have already been approved at a federal or state level and grants WDBs the ability to review and determine provider eligibility
- Create a single point of access for individuals to access Individual Training Accounts (ITAs) and provide a connected platform to house a national marketplace that allows consumers to search for and identify training providers to meet their needs

Improve Operational Efficiencies

- Eliminate the requirement for physical one-stop centers and grant state and local WDBs the option to utilize either a physical or virtual one-stop center that ensures universal accessibility to the greatest extent possible
- Provide dedicated funding for one-stop infrastructure, based on actual system needs, and eliminate onerous infrastructure funding agreement provisions in current law that disincentivize state and local collaboration
- Ensure common terminology, definitions, and concepts are integrated into future workforce development legislation to increase alignment and operational efficiencies for education and workforce development systems

