

2021 POLICY BRIEF



Support Workforce and Local Business Development: The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)

ACTION NEEDED:

Urge your members of Congress to support at least level or increased funding for Title I programs under the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) as Congress considers funding for FY 2022. Funded through the Labor, Health and Human Services (Labor-HHS) appropriations bill, WIOA programs provide essential financial and other resources to support a demand-driven workforce development system.

BACKGROUND:

Enacted with bipartisan support in 2014, WIOA authorizes federal employment, workforce and training programs and formula funding to states and local governments. WIOA provides the needed framework for a modernized, demand-driven workforce development system to meet business and jobseekers' needs.

Administered at the federal level under the DOL Employment and Training Administration (ETA), WIOA is the largest single source of federal funding for workforce development activities. WIOA is a vital funding source for workforce development that helps counties tackle and overcome challenges facing job seekers and employers.

In 2014, Congress included several measures in WIOA to help better match businesses with the skilled workers they need to grow:

- Maintaining local governance authority while providing enhanced flexibility to meet the needs of business and job seekers;
- Maintaining a business-led majority on the Workforce Development Boards (WDBs) while reducing the numbers of required members;
- Establishing a single set of common performance metrics across all core programs and adding a measure on the effectiveness of serving business;

Enacted in 2014, the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) reauthorizes federal employment and training programs and provides the needed framework for a modernized demand driven workforce development system

WIOA is a vital funding source for workforce development that helps counties tackle and overcome the challenges facing jobseekers and employers

In 2016, 64 percent of WIOA participants gained employment, including 77 percent of adults and 82 percent of dislocated workers who received training services

Local officials play a pivotal role in the governance and administration of WIOA programs and funding. Counties are involved in 90 percent of the country's 550 Workforce Development Boards (WDBs)

- Eliminating the sequence of services requirement and integrating best practices such as industry partnerships and career pathways; and
- Focusing youth services on out-of-school and disconnected youth between the ages of 16-24.

In addition, WIOA also establishes the one-stop center delivery system, which provides convenient access to job search assistance, workforce training and career services through various locations across the country.

WIOA recognizes the importance of local elected officials' role in the governance of workforce development activities and the critical role local elected officials and local WDBs play in workforce and economic development in local communities. It also provides enhanced flexibilities to address local workforce challenges.

WIOA Title I focuses on workforce development activities at the state and local level and establishes funding for three key formula grants – Adult, Dislocated Workers and Youth programs.

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While workforce development funding has declined since 2001, there was a \$3 million increase in FY 2021 over FY 2020 levels. Of the \$2.85 billion allocated to WIOA Title I Programs in FY 2021, \$862.6 million is included for Adults, \$921 million for Youth, and \$1.06 billion for Dislocated Workers

KEY TALKING POINTS

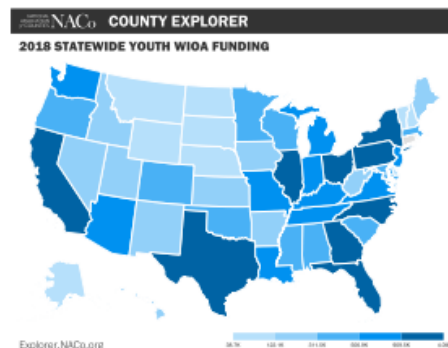
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WIOA is a vital funding source for workforce development that helps counties tackle and overcome the challenges facing job seekers and employers.

Local officials play a pivotal role in the governance and administration of WIOA programs and funding. Counties are involved in 90 percent of the country's 550 local WDBs, through which we partner with federal, state, other local governments and the private sector. Twenty-eight percent of WDBs are within a county department or function as a county department.

COUNTIES MATTER

2018 Statewide Youth WIOA funding



Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration

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