

What is WIOA?

The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, WIOA, passed in 2014 as the first major legislative reform to the public workforce system in nearly 20 years and provided critical funding and support for programs that lifted Americans into the workforce. Now, as it awaits reauthorization from Congress, we offer the following recommendations that center evidence and innovation to best support all workers.

Evidence Based Provisions

DEFINE

Consistently define "evidence-based" drawing from previous bipartisan models

PRIORITIZE

Prioritize evidence-based activities and practices across WIOA programs

ALIGN

Align and prioritize evidence-based practices in state plans and funding streams



Title I WIOA funds

Gradual increase in investment

Technical assistance

Innovation and Expanding Pathways

INNOVATE

Authorize a tiered, innovative Workforce Development Innovation Fund

Why?

- Enables a wide array of eligible entities to participate, such as State workforce boards or non-governmental organizations



- Allows the most proven programs to focus on improvement and scale-up

- Reserves 10% of funds for technical assistance to support diverse communities and providers

The Workforce Development Innovation provides three tiers of supportive funding for the development and scale-up of evidence-based programs and evaluations

Evaluation and Research

EVALUATE

Direct DOL to invest up to 1% of funds for evaluation

DATA

Formally authorize the Workforce Data Quality Initiative to improve data coordination

WORKFORCE DATA QUALITY INITIATIVE:

Integrate workforce and education data to improve transparency, address underinvestment, and expand access to new states while gathering accurate evidence to help new state develop programs



Contracting and Paying-for-Performance

STRENGTHEN

Support performance-based contracting to enable effective upskilling and training



Evidence-based training

Upskilling for in-demand jobs

Eliminating unnecessary requirements

Performance and Accountability Indicators



TRACK

Track the earnings increase over 5 years to assess the long-term impacts

VALUE

Include assessments that look for indicators of high quality job placements

Accessibility

SIMPLIFY

Streamline and localize the process of determining eligibility for WIOA

EXPAND

Increase supportive services to limit engagement barriers for participants

The WIOA eligibility process is burdensome for both job seekers and providers. By streamlining eligibility processes and enabling flexible support services, participants will receive the maximum impact of our investment.

STREAMLINE ACCESS

Add funds to supportive services



Empower and support participants



Expand scope of career services

