



NARC

Building Regional Communities

National Association of Regional Councils

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

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Workforce development investments are needed now more than ever.

The current national unemployment rate is touching record lows, but technology is quickly changing the nature of work. The Metropolitan Policy Program at Brookings found that more than 60 percent of occupations will be significantly affected by automation, AI, and technology in the workplace. This means that almost 90 million people will need to be reskilled over the next decade to successfully transition to the jobs of the future.

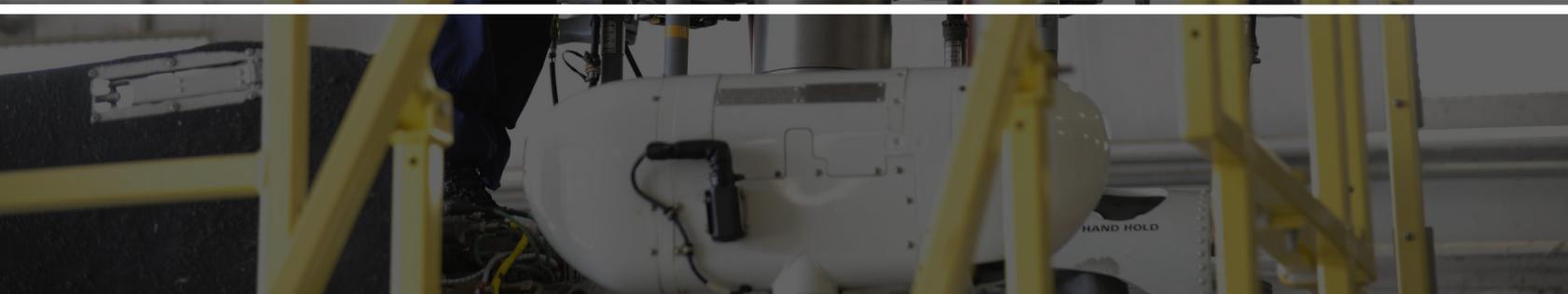
What is the role of regional councils in the national workforce development system?

Regional councils play a critical role in the national workforce development system. Some regional councils serve as the administrative body for their local Workforce Development Board (WDB) under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) while others offer important planning and programmatic initiatives. Regional councils promote regional, market-based approaches to workforce and education programs through partnerships with the private sector, government and community leaders, and academic institutions. Many also develop long-term economic development plans by assessing current and future local workforce needs of both employers and job seekers.



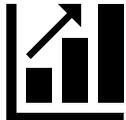
All the key players in the nation's workforce system need to work together to ensure success for America's reskilling efforts.

The collective efforts of many actors – individuals, employers, workforce development boards, educational institutions, community organizations, regional councils, and leaders at all levels of government – is required to coordinate workforce development investments, planning, and resource-sharing to ensure our nation can continue to compete in the global economy.



SUPPORT CRITICAL INVESTMENTS FOR REGIONAL WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

To help ensure that the nation's workforce system remains resilient in a rapidly changing economy, Congress should:



Restore funding for the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) to historic levels in the upcoming WIOA reauthorization. This includes:

- \$4.68 billion for Title I employment and training programs (adult, youth and dislocated worker programs.)
- \$779 million for Title II funding adult education and literacy programs.
- \$1.1 billion for Title III Wagner-Peyser Employment Services (ES) activities.
- \$3.75 billion for Title IV funding the vocational rehabilitation program and other employment services.



Grant regional workforce development entities the authority and flexibility to creatively respond to local employment and economic development issues.



Acknowledge that there are multiple pathways that can lead individuals to high-quality, long-term careers. Support community awareness for college preparation programs that help to bridge the transition from high school to college. Assist adults wanting to go back to school to obtain a post-secondary degree. Encourage greater use of community colleges, technical schools, and apprenticeship programs with access to funding for local programs. Support transitional jobs designed to provide temporary employment for low-income workers that leads to full-time permanent employment.



Encourage federal action that will help prepare individuals for the careers of tomorrow. Update federal workforce development and education programs to ensure the training of at-risk/underemployed people in emerging energy, technology, environmental, and advanced manufacturing skills. Allow incumbent workers access to federally sponsored training and employment programs so they can upgrade their skills and adjust to changing job markets.