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# Realizing Innovation and Opportunity in WIOA

## National Conference of Regions February 14, 2017

# Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)

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- Signed into law July 2014, replaced the Workforce Investment Act (WIA)
- Implementation began July 1, 2015
- Focus on alignment across federal workforce, education programs



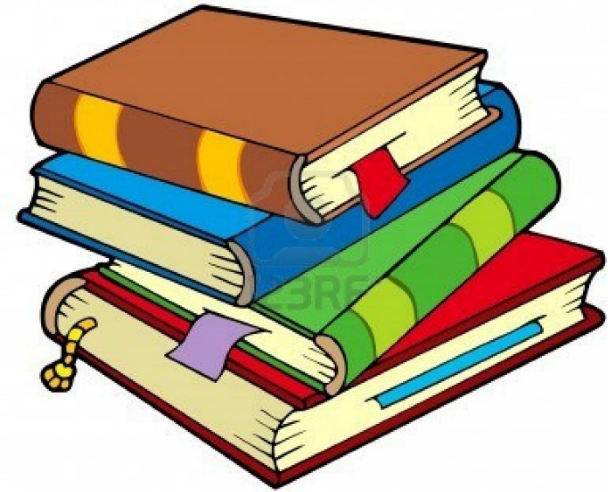
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# WIOA – Four Titles, Six “Core” Programs

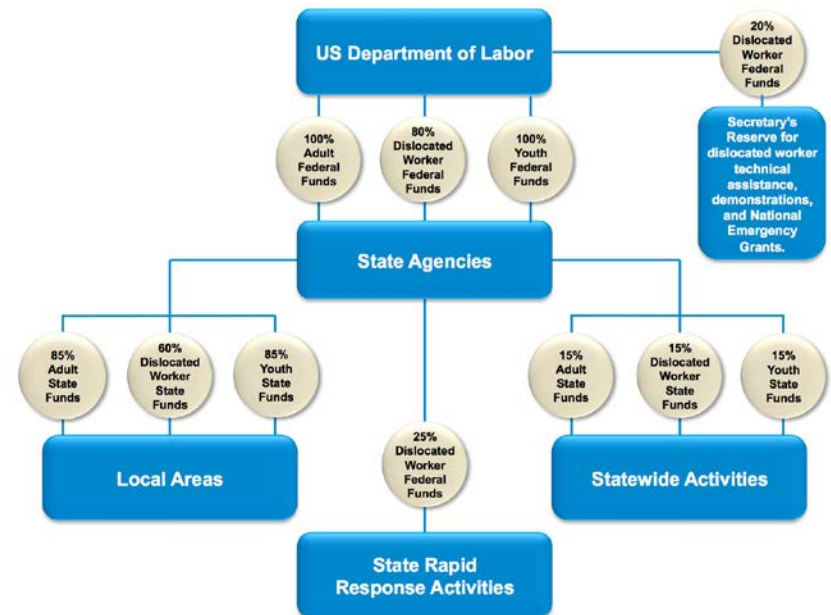
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- Title I – Workforce Development Activities (Adult, Dislocated Worker, Youth)
- Title II – Adult Education and Family Literacy Act (AEFLA)
- Title III – Wagner-Peyser Act (Employment Services)
- Title IV – Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (vocational rehabilitation)



# WIOA Title I Workforce Programs

- Core programs - formula grants to states (FY 2015):
  - \$815M for adult activities
  - \$1.020B for dislocated workers
  - \$873M for youth activities
- Adult and DW funds may be used for supportive services, but resources limited
- Youth programs must provide supportive services, may support transportation costs



# WIOA Title I – Governance and Infrastructure

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- Requires establishment of business-led state and local workforce development boards (WDBs)
- State WDBs assist with state plan, policies, including career pathways and sector partnerships
- Local WDBs oversee one-stop system, select providers of adult and youth services
- American Job Centers –must provide universal access to core programs, other federal workforce programs



# WIOA Partner Programs

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- In addition to core programs, partners include (but not limited to):
  - TANF\*
  - HUD training and employment
  - CSBG programs
  - Perkins postsecondary CTE
  - Veterans employment programs
  - SNAP E&T\*
- Partners must make services accessible through one-stop system, contribute to infrastructure costs





# WIOA – State Planning

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- WIOA requires new four-year **Unified Plan**: sets vision and strategy across all six core programs
- States *may* elect, instead, to create a **Combined Plan**: Unified Plan plus alignment with at least 1 optional program (Perkins CTE, TANF, etc.)
- Plans must include:
  - Economic analysis
  - Workforce analysis (incl. individuals with barriers to employment)
  - Operational elements, including how the state will support access to jobs and training services, and how workforce activities will connect with state economic development plans
- Initial plans due in 2016, modifications in 2018



# WIOA – Local and Regional Plans

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- Local workforce areas must have plans approved by July 1, 2017 - still ongoing in some states
- States can require regional plans
- Public comment period required
- Local MOUs – must be developed by June 30, 2017





# Industry or Sector Partnerships

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- Partnerships between multiple employers in target industry, local boards, labor, and training providers
- Required activity at local level, states are required to support local partnerships
- Opportunity for transportation planners to engage employers, support development of short and long-term workforce pipelines



# On-the-Ground Considerations

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- Are you connected with local board? Local or regional planning process?
- Are you serving communities where transportation is a barrier?
- Are you working with employers who need to draw from underserved areas?



# Contact

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