

# One Stop Employment Shops

## A look at the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act

### How has WIOA changed employment services?

In July 2014, President Barack Obama signed the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) into law. WIOA was designed to help agencies make the world of work more accessible and streamlined for American workers seeking to advance their employment skill sets and competitiveness. WIOA superseded the Workforce Investment Act of 1998. It also amended the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act, the Wagner-Peyser Act, and the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

#### What did WIOA do?

- WIOA streamlines services into one category of “career services”, meaning individuals, including Veterans, can access needed training immediately without having to follow a strict sequence of services
- WIOA emphasized that training must lead to industry-recognized credentials
- WIOA directs employment programs to support and connect to employers
- WIOA emphasizes community engagement through alignment with programs like Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
- WIOA allows for contracting flexibility, allowing some communities to create contracts with schools offering higher education courses to advance skills
- WIOA focuses employment services on those with low skill levels and those who are unemployed
- Although the majority of disability-related changes apply to disabled youth, WIOA encourages state Vocational Rehabilitation agencies (VR) to better engage employers to increase the employment competitiveness of disabled adults

#### What can you do NOW to learn more about WIOA in your community?

- Talk to your local library: WIOA allows Governors to use statewide funds to support libraries serving as partners in the one-stop shop system as they provide employment and training services. Libraries are also eligible providers of basic life skills services like literacy programs and trainings.
- Find out how the American Job Center (AJC) is improving the connection between VR and employers so individuals with disabilities have a better chance for competitive employment.
- Find out how local boards are improving relationships with employers. They are charged with a few activities, including engaging regional and local employers within in-demand industries and on-the-job training and career pathways. WIOA enhances training in the workplace by increasing rates of reimbursement to employers who use on-the-job training and customized training.
- Find out how Veterans can be served with dislocated worker funds. Some parts of WIOA have expanded eligibility to allow dislocated, transitioned Veterans and spouses of active duty service members to access National Dislocated Worker Grants (DWG) resources.

For more in-depth information, resources, and guidance on the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, visit <http://www.doleta.gov/wioa/>.