



National Association
of Workforce Boards

LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

for the 119th Congress

EVERY DOLLAR invested in the
public workforce system:



REDUCES
reliance on
public assistance



SPURS business
growth and
prosperity



GENERATES
additional tax
revenue



IMPROVES
workforce
productivity



INCREASES
labor force
participation



LEVERAGES
private funding

NAWB'S PRIORITIES

8,583,318
INDIVIDUALS
were served
through WIOA



WIOA workforce
programs helped
377,095
VETERANS



OVER 70%
OF INDIVIDUALS
receiving career &
training services
BECAME EMPLOYED



WIOA serves individuals
often with the **MOST**
SIGNIFICANT CHALLENGES
to finding and obtaining
employment including
DISABILITIES, LIMITED
EDUCATION, LANGUAGE
BARRIERS, or LONG-TERM
UNEMPLOYMENT



U.S. Department of Labor PIRL data, 7/1/23-6/30/24

FULLY FUND THE PUBLIC WORKFORCE SYSTEM

Funding for the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) has steadily eroded over the last decade, creating significant challenges in meeting the needs of jobseekers, workers, and employers. Inflation in recent years has continued to worsen this trend. Despite these challenges, every dollar invested by the federal government in WIOA generates more than \$15 in economic value for our nation.¹ Federal support for WIOA enables workforce boards to leverage additional funding for workforce development, making this one of the most impactful and remunerative investments Congress can make.

- NAWB supports a substantial increase in funding for core Title I WIOA funding streams including youth, adults, and dislocated workers—which are funded in the Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations bill—to meet current and future needs of American businesses.

¹FutureWork Systems calculated this based on Department of Labor data

REAUTHORIZE THE WORKFORCE INNOVATION AND OPPORTUNITY ACT (WIOA)

NAWB supports efforts to thoughtfully renew WIOA in a manner that preserves local autonomy and ensures needed flexibility for service delivery tailored to local needs to ensure participant success and maximum benefits to local businesses. Previous WIOA reauthorization proposals contained several provisions that run counter to these principles.

- NAWB opposes any WIOA reauthorization proposal that contains an inflexible, one-size-fits-all federal training mandate or increased state set asides. Local communities must have the resources and flexibility to meet the skills development needs of incumbent workers, jobseekers, and local employers.

REJECT A ONE-SIZE-FITS-ALL FEDERAL WIOA TRAINING MANDATE

Individuals served through WIOA often require a variety of supports to complete training and education programs and find and successfully hold a job. Supportive services may include initial assessments, transportation, tool/equipment/uniform purchases, childcare, and other “training-enabling” support. Career services—such as skills assessment, career counseling, and case management—are also essential in ensuring jobseekers find the opportunities that lead to family-sustaining employment.

Several states already have training requirements for WIOA funds but some of these states include great flexibility to ensure that training-related costs, including staff costs, count towards these training requirements.

Workforce development boards often leverage federal WIOA funding to raise additional resources that are used for training, although recent WIOA reauthorization bills have not recognized these non-federal contributions in the context of proposed training mandates.

- NAWB supports efforts to incentivize training within the public workforce system while ensuring completion and success. If this incentivization must include percentage training requirements for WIOA funds, flexibility in defining training costs—to include Supportive Services and Career Services—would ensure both that the needs of the jobseeker are most efficiently and effectively met and that training funds are most efficiently spent.

REJECT NEW STATE- LEVEL SET-ASIDES IN WIOA SO WORKFORCE BOARDS CAN MEET LOCAL BUSINESS NEEDS

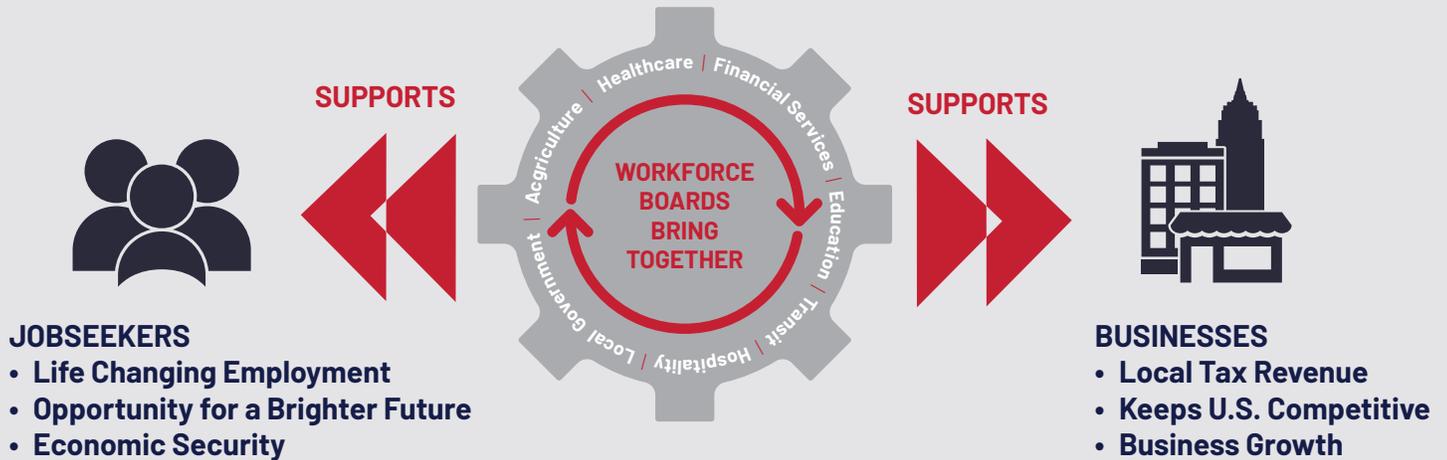
Local workforce boards are hampered by the fact that 15% of WIOA funds are currently reserved at the state level, some of which have not been fully accounted for. Prior to WIOA's 2014 passage, Congressional appropriators reduced the 15% set-aside when states struggled to expend these funds. In the years since, there has been little objective evidence supporting the need to increase statewide reservations, particularly at the expense of local workforce infrastructure which serves as the primary focal point for employer engagement, participant access, and service delivery. Despite this, the recent WIOA reauthorization bill called for an increase in the state level set-aside to a total of 25%, with the additional 10% to be used for critical industry skills and sector partnership efforts.

- NAWB opposes any new state level set-aside of core WIOA formula funds and supports decreasing the current set-aside from 15% to 10%.
- NAWB supports a public accounting of how the current state set asides have been spent for the past ten years.

A newly revitalized public workforce system will require resources to tailor workforce development strategies to meet specific needs and respond swiftly to evolving economic conditions and employment challenges. Any provisions intended to facilitate changes to the public workforce system infrastructure must result in improved outcomes for employers and jobseekers, including the ability to maintain or exceed current levels of service delivery and that local stakeholders have a key role in these important decisions allocating scarce resources.

- NAWB supports local legislatures having a decision-making role in any workforce area redesignation (or “redistricting”) plans or single-state area designations. Previous WIOA reauthorization proposals have sought to diminish the perspectives of local stakeholders.

Workforce boards support JOBSEEKERS and BUSINESSES



EACH DAY, local workforce boards:



SERVE as the **conveners**, **collaborators**, and **navigators** of their local workforce ecosystem



ENSURE local employers have a robust **talent pipeline** and **prepare workers** for future occupations that may not yet exist



OVERSEE approximately **2,300 American Job Centers (AJCs)** across the country to help job seekers identify opportunities for employment and the **education, training, and support** needed to be successful. AJCs also work with employers to create **apprenticeships, work experience** opportunities, and **on-the-job training**



BRING TOGETHER members of the large, medium, and small **business communities** and their **industry groups, K-12 education systems, local community colleges, universities, training providers, elected officials, nonprofit organizations, chambers, and economic developers**, and **other partners** (such as hospitality, health care, housing, agriculture, manufacturing, financial services, and transit) to evaluate the local employment landscape, develop training initiatives, and match workers and employers with opportunities within in-demand and growing segments of their local economies



SPUR life-changing **employment, economic security**, and the **opportunity** for a brighter future



202.857.7900 | nawb@nawb.org | www.nawb.org

[linkedin.com/company/national-association-of-workforce-boards](https://www.linkedin.com/company/national-association-of-workforce-boards) [@WorkforceInvest](https://twitter.com/WorkforceInvest) [workforceboards](https://www.instagram.com/workforceboards)

NAWB serves, supports, and represents the nation's local and state workforce development boards, which coordinate with education and economic development stakeholders to administer regional workforce programs that meet the needs of jobseekers, career-seekers, businesses, and communities.