



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

**9,112,668
INDIVIDUALS**

**were served
through WIOA**



WIOA workforce
programs helped

**127,268
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, 7/1/24-6/30/25

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 urges Congress to reject any proposals that impose training mandates, expand set-asides, or weaken the essential role of supportive services—such as transportation and child care—that ensure participant success.

NAWB calls on Congress to advance legislation that includes the following principles as part of any future update or reimagining of WIOA:

- **Strengthen Local Budget Authority.** Local boards should have clear control over the WIOA funds meant for their communities so decisions are made closest to the people being served.
- **Modernize Access to Training.** The Eligible Training Provider List needs a major update. Local boards should be able to choose and vet training providers that actually meet local needs.
- **Increase Flexibility in Service Delivery.** Boards should be free to offer services in-person, online, or hybrid — not be required to operate physical one-stop centers if other models work better.
- **Invest in Better Workforce Data.** The system needs modern, real-time data so boards, employers, and jobseekers can make decisions based on what's happening now, not outdated reports.
- **Improve Alignment Across Systems.** Local boards should have stronger authority to coordinate workforce, education, training, and public assistance programs so communities get a more connected system.
- **Support Lifelong Learning.** Give boards more flexibility to fund upskilling for current workers and redesign Individual Training Accounts so people can access training throughout their careers.
- **Protect Local Workforce Areas.** Stop state-driven redesignation processes that change local area boundaries without support from most local boards.

A modernized public workforce system built on these principles will require meaningful resources to tailor strategies to local needs and respond quickly to shifting economic conditions and labor-market challenges.

REJECT OMB'S PROPOSAL THAT INCREASES RED TAPE FOR WORKFORCE PROGRAMS

The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has proposed one of the most sweeping rewrites of the federal Uniform Grant Guidance in more than a decade. If finalized, these changes would significantly and negatively affect workforce development activities nationwide. Workforce development boards are committed to strong stewardship of federal funds, and NAWB supports efforts to strengthen transparency and accountability.

However, federal grant rules must also reflect how programs actually operate. Congress designed WIOA's formula funding to provide stable, predictable resources that allow local communities to plan, deliver, and sustain services that meet employer and jobseeker needs. OMB's proposal moves in the opposite direction. It would impose new administrative costs that fall hardest on small and rural communities and divert resources away from the very individuals and businesses WIOA was created to support.

NAWB urges Congress to use its oversight and appropriations authority to ensure OMB reverses course and withdraws its proposed revisions to the Uniform Grant Guidance. Any future changes to federal grant rules must preserve the predictability Congress built into formula funding and reduce, not increase, administrative burden for states and local areas.

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



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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.