

TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT NOTICE	NO. 5-14
	DATE July 22, 2014

TO: STATE GOVERNORS
STATE WORKFORCE AGENCIES
STATE WORKFORCE ADMINISTRATORS
STATE AND LOCAL WORKFORCE BOARD CHAIRS AND DIRECTORS
STATE UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE DIRECTORS
STATE LABOR COMMISSIONERS
STATE LABOR MARKET INFORMATION DIRECTORS
STATE RAPID RESPONSE COORDINATORS
STATE APPRENTICESHIP AGENCY DIRECTORS
OFFICE OF APPRENTICESHIP STATE AND REGIONAL DIRECTORS
TRADE ADJUSTMENT ASSISTANCE LEADS
AMERICAN JOB CENTER DIRECTORS
ALL EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING ADMINISTRATION GRANTEES

FROM: PORTIA WU /s/
Assistant Secretary

SUBJECT: Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Announcement and Initial Informational Resources

1. **Purpose.** Through this notice, the Employment and Training Administration (ETA) communicates the enactment of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), announces its current implementation plans, shares key statutorily-required implementation dates, and provides initial informational resources regarding the provisions in the new law.
2. **References.** WIOA Resource Page available at www.doleta.gov/WIOA.
3. **Background.** Between 1998 and 2014, the public workforce system, authorized under the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (WIA), made important achievements in helping job seekers acquire the skills and credentials needed for good jobs and matching employers to qualified workers. During this period, the nation has experienced strong economic times, the Great Recession, and continuing budget uncertainty. The work of the committed partners in the system – including states, State and Local Workforce Investment Boards, American Job Centers (AJC), federally-funded partner programs, training providers, non- and for-profit organizations, and other service intermediaries – has been extraordinary.

On July 22, 2014, President Barack Obama signed WIOA into law. Both the Senate and House passed WIOA with wide, bipartisan support. The passage of WIOA provides new authorizing legislation for programs that had been authorized under WIA. Specifically, WIOA covers the following programs:

Programs administered by the U.S. Department of Labor (Department)

- Adult, Dislocated Worker, and Youth formula programs
- Job Corps program
- Indian and Native American program
- Migrant and Seasonal Farmworker program
- YouthBuild program
- Evaluations and Multistate Projects
- Wagner-Peyser Employment Service and workforce and labor market information programs

Programs administered by the U.S. Department of Education

- Adult Education and Literacy programs
- Vocational Rehabilitation and other Rehabilitation Act programs

WIOA is landmark legislation designed to strengthen and improve our nation's public workforce system and help put Americans back to work. WIOA makes it easier for the public workforce system to help workers acquire the skills employers need and help employers access the talent pool they need to compete and win in a global economy. The new legislative provisions are designed to help workers, including those with barriers to employment, access employment, education, job-driven training, and support services; enhance program coordination, streamline service delivery, and increase flexibility for governance; improve services to employers; and align programs across common goals and increase accountability and transparency. WIOA provisions also emphasize quality training that leads to credentials, regional planning and service coordination, and implementation of targeted sector-based strategies and career pathways.

4. Initial WIOA Informational Resources.

ETA is collaborating closely with the U.S. Departments of Education and Health and Human Services to engage states, local areas, other grantees, and stakeholders in preparing to implement WIOA. The following materials provide initial informational resources regarding WIOA, with emphasis on the programs administered by ETA. ETA will engage stakeholders and communicate guidance throughout WIOA implementation period.

- ***Fact Sheet.*** ETA has prepared a WIOA fact sheet (Attachment A). The fact sheet highlights key reforms WIOA makes to the public workforce system.
- ***Timeline.*** The key statutorily required implementation dates are summarized in Attachment B. The overall implementation schedule is ambitious given the requirements and transition expectations of the law. ETA will issue guidance regarding interim milestones for various activities, as needed. For example, ETA will issue guidance regarding the development and submission of unified state plans as required by WIOA.

- **Questions and Answers.** Attachment C provides a preliminary set of questions and answers on WIOA implementation. ETA expects these will be expanded and updated throughout implementation of the law.
- **Website and Dedicated Email Address.** ETA has established a WIOA Resource Page (www.doleta.gov/WIOA) to serve as the on-line repository for the Department's WIOA implementation materials. The fact sheet, key statutorily required implementation timelines, questions and answers, and other relevant guidance and technical assistance materials are available on this site. Questions regarding WIOA implementation can be submitted to a newly-established in-box (DOL.WIOA@dol.gov). As responses are developed, they will be posted on the WIOA Resource Page.

The Department of Education's Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education has established a WIOA Resource Page for information related to the adult education and literacy programs under title II of WIOA. This page is located at: <http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ovae/pi/AdultEd/wioa-reauthorization.html>. Questions may be submitted to OCTAE staff at AskAEFLA@ed.gov.

The Department of Education's Rehabilitation Services Administration has also established a WIOA Resource Page for information related to the vocational rehabilitation program. This page is located at: <http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/osers/rsa/wioa-reauthorization.html>

- **Stakeholder Engagement.** Input from the state and local workforce leaders and practitioners, as well as other stakeholders, is critical to the success of WIOA implementation. ETA will engage stakeholders through in-person and virtual discussions. More information regarding opportunities to contribute input will be available on WIOA Resource Page. In addition, stakeholders can submit inquiries through DOL.WIOA@dol.gov.
5. **Action Requested.** ETA encourages the recipients of this advisory to share the TEN and attached WIOA implementation technical assistance materials with other principals in the public workforce system.
 6. **Inquiries.** Questions regarding this TEN can be directed to DOL.WIOA@dol.gov or the appropriate ETA regional office.
 7. **Attachments.**
 - Attachment A – WIOA Fact Sheet
 - Attachment B – Key Statutorily Required Implementation Dates
 - Attachment C – Frequently Asked Questions and Answers