U.S. Department of Labor

Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act

Federal Reserve Bank
Boston and New York

December 10, 2015
President Barack Obama signed WIOA into law on July 22, 2014.

Passed by Congress with wide bipartisan majority (the Senate voted 93-5 and the House of Representatives voted 415-6).

Broad vision of workforce programs: reaffirms ongoing role of American Job Centers and also requires coordination and alignment of key employment, education, and training programs.

Promotes program alignment at the Federal, State, local, and regional levels.

In general, the Act takes effect on July 1, 2015, the first full program year after enactment, unless otherwise noted.

Final Rules scheduled to be published in the Spring 2016.
WIOA - Vision

- Aligns with and complements the President’s Vision for Job-Driven Workforce Development – prepare workers for 21st century jobs and ensure American businesses have skilled workers to be competitive in global economy.

- The Vice President issued a report, “Ready to Work: Job-Driven Training and American Opportunity,” based on his review of Federal job training programs on July 22, 2014 (http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/docs/skills_report.pdf)
  - Stronger employer engagement
  - Sector Strategies
  - Earn-while-you-learn opportunities
  - Career Pathways
  - Greater accountability
  - Partnering
WIOA - Youth

- Focus on Out-of-School Youth
- Eligibility changes
  - Out-of-School Youth
- Work Experience is emphasized
- New elements to be offered to Youth
WIOA shifts the focus to serving Out-of-School (OSY) Youth.

WIOA requires 75 percent of Youth funding be used for out-of-school youth.

- The increased expenditures must be a minimum increase of 10 percent points compared to the previous year and no lower than a 50 percent OSY expenditure rate.
- Local areas must spend a minimum percent of 75 percent of PY 2016/FY 2017 funds on OSY.
WIOA: Eligibility Changes

Eligibility changes

- Out-of-School Youth
  - 16 – 24 years old
  - 8 additional barriers

- In-School Youth
  - 14 – 21 years old
  - Low income (including free lunch)
  - 6 additional barriers
At least 20% of local Youth formula funds must be used for work experiences.

Under WIOA, paid and unpaid work experiences that have as a component academic and occupational education may include the following four categories:

• On the Job Training
• Summer Employment/Year Round Employment
• Internships and Job Shadowing
• Pre-Apprenticeship Programs
Existing Elements:
- Tutoring, study skills training, instruction and evidence-based dropout prevention and recovery strategies that lead to completion of the requirements for a secondary school diploma or its recognized equivalent) or for a recognized post-secondary credential;
- Alternative secondary school services, or dropout recovery services, as appropriate;
- Paid and unpaid work experiences that have academic and occupational education as a component of the work experience;
- Occupational skill training;
- Leadership development opportunities;
- Supportive services;
- Adult mentoring;
- Follow-up services for not less than 12 months after the completion of participation; and
- Comprehensive guidance and counseling, which may include drug and alcohol abuse counseling, as well as referrals to counseling, as appropriate to the needs of the individual youth.
Education offered concurrently with and in the same context as workforce preparation activities and training for a specific occupation or occupational cluster

- Financial literacy
- Entrepreneurial skills training
- Services that provide labor market and employment information in the local area
- Activities that help youth transition to postsecondary education and training
Youth and Financial Literacy

- Embedded in WIOA
  - Local area activities
  - State set-aside funding
- CFPB and the National League of Cities
  - Pilot with 25 cities and workforce development boards
Technical Assistance Tools and Resources

- WIOA landing page
  - http://www.doleta.gov/wioa/
  - TEGL 23-14
  - TEGL 8-15

- ION (our TAT page)
  - https://wioa.workforce3one.org/

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