

The following section provides highlights of the Workforce Investment and Opportunity Act of importance to workforce development stakeholders.

State Strategic Plan

WIOA would require states to produce unified state strategic plan for training, employment services, adult education and vocational rehabilitation through a “coordinated, comprehensive system,” which will help to strengthen coordination at the state, local and regional levels where programs, services and funding are often disjointed and disconnected. The unified strategic plan should improve service delivery across the various workforce programs while reducing administrative costs and multiple reporting requirements.

Local Strategic Workforce Plan

WIOA requires local WIBs to submit a local strategic workforce plan that includes strategies for delivery of all the services offered under the core programs and for the plan to be aligned with the state’s strategic workforce development plan.

One-Stop Career Centers

WIOA includes provisions that require the State WIB to establish criteria for the local WIB to evaluate and assess their One-Stop Career Center effectiveness, physical and programmatic accessibility, continuous improvement and service delivery systems every three years. While the bill failed to require mandatory contributions from system partners to fund the costs of infrastructure, it does include language that authorizes states to impose a funding mechanism if local areas fail to reach an agreement.

Sequence of Service

WIOA proposes to eliminate the “sequence of services” provision, which requires individuals to move through “core” and “intensive” services prior to being eligible for a variety of training services. Instead, core and intensive services have been consolidated into a new “career services” category to provide flexibility for training eligibility determinations.

Sector Strategies

WIOA requires local WIBs to implement sector strategies to encourage development of state policy and promote regional partnerships between employers, educators, workforce development stakeholders, and others to address the skill needs of critical industries within a region. In California, the State WIB has adopted sector strategies as the statewide framework for workforce development, and local WIBs are required to identify high-growth industry sectors as part of their local plan.

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