



## **The Workforce Investment System and WIOA: An Investment in our Workforce of the Future**

The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), which is effective on July 1, 2015, is designed to streamline and align a number of different sources of federal funding related to workforce development. The purpose is to help job seekers access employment, education, training, and support services to succeed in the labor market, and to match employers with the skilled workers they need to compete in the global economy.

WIOA Funding Includes:

- Employment and training services for Adults, Dislocated Workers, Youth and Wagner-Peyser employment services administered by the Department of Labor (DOL) through formula grants to states.
- Adult Education and Literacy programs and Vocational Rehabilitation state grant programs that assist individuals with disabilities in obtaining employment administered by the Department of Education (DoED).
- Programs for particular needs and populations, including the Job Corps, YouthBuild, Indian and Native Americans, and Migrant and Seasonal Farmworker programs as well as evaluation and multistate projects administered by DOL.

By passing the bipartisan Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) on an overwhelmingly bipartisan basis, Congress demonstrated that workforce development is a national priority. ***However, these important improvements in the law cannot be fully realized without sufficient resources, including:***

- ✓ Funding WIOA Title I employment and training programs at statutorily authorized levels so states, local areas and other partners in the public workforce system can fully realize the vision outlined by WIOA.
- ✓ Funding for adult education and literacy programs under Title II of WIOA at authorized levels to ensure that the 36 million Americans with low basic skills are able to take advantage of emerging economic opportunities.
- ✓ Funding Wagner/Peyser Employment Service (ES) activities under Title III of WIOA at least at current levels to ensure that job seekers can access these key labor exchange services and to support greater alignment between the ES and other federal workforce investments.

### **Functions of Local Workforce Development Boards under WIOA**

- Employer Engagement
- Workforce Stakeholder Partnerships
- Workforce Research, Regional Labor Market Information
- Career Pathways Development
- Program Oversight and Development
- Budget Administration/Accountability
- Coordination with Education & Training Providers
- Negotiate Performance Standards
- Local/Regional Plan
- Select One-Stop Operators, Providers



## The Texas Workforce System

The Texas workforce system is comprised of various programs, services and initiatives administered by 8 state agencies, 28 local workforce development boards, community and technical colleges, local adult education providers and independent school districts. By delivering programs that assist Texas' current and future workers to secure high demand and sustainable employment, these system partners serve a critical role in the development of a world-class workforce.

The 28 local workforce development boards and their contractors serve as points of local service delivery, providing a variety of services to employers and workers in their area. The boards operate the 219 Workforce Solutions centers spread across the state.

### **Selected 2014 Results of the Texas Workforce System**

- 1,318,081 Job seekers were provided employment services in FY 2014.
- 83,783 Employers received services in FY 2014.
- 338 Texas businesses received training for workers through Skills Development Fund partnerships with local community and technical colleges.
- More than 4,300 Apprentices received training for a career in a skilled trade or craft.
- Local workforce development boards secured \$29,038,925 in child care matching funds.
- More than 316,000 jobs were created or upgraded through Skills Development Fund grants.
- 8,149 workers were able to retain their jobs through the Shared Work Unemployment Benefit Program.
- Nearly 28,000 individuals received training through Workforce Investment Act (WIA), Skills Development Fund, Apprenticeship and other training programs.
- More than 3,200 additional workers were trained through an apprenticeship program which provides a combination of on-the-job training and classroom instruction for highly skilled trades and occupations.
- More than 10,000 workers took part in WIA occupational training which is available to dislocated workers, disadvantaged youth and unemployed or low-wage earning adults.
- More than 3,800 qualifying individuals were provided with Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) benefits and other workforce services in FY 2014.
- More than 119,600 job seekers who are veterans were provided with employment services.

*\*Source: Texas Workforce Commission*

### **Resources**

[Directory of Texas Workforce Development Boards](http://www.tawb.info/#tab-5-3) (http://www.tawb.info/#tab-5-3)

[Department of Labor WIOA Resource Page](http://www.doleta.gov/WIOA) (www.doleta.gov/WIOA)

[2014 Texas Workforce Commission Annual Report](http://www.twc.state.tx.us/files/news/annual-report-2014-twc.pdf) (http://www.twc.state.tx.us/files/news/annual-report-2014-twc.pdf)

[Texas Workforce Investment Council Evaluation 2014: Accomplishments and Outcomes of the Texas Workforce System](http://gov.texas.gov/files/twic/Evaluation_2014.pdf) (http://gov.texas.gov/files/twic/Evaluation\_2014.pdf)

***The Texas Association of Workforce Boards (TAWB) is a not-for-profit association representing the 28 local workforce development boards in Texas and the more than 750 of business, education and community leaders who serve on those boards. TAWB's goal is to ensure a highly skilled, well-trained talent supply for Texas employers and an employer-driven workforce system.***