

Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)

Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) was signed into law on July 22, 2014. WIOA is designed 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. Congress passed the Act by a wide bipartisan majority; it is the first legislative reform in 15 years of the public workforce system.

WIOA PROGRAMS - WIOA brings together, in strategic coordination, the core programs of Federal investment in skill development:

- Employment and training services for adults, dislocated workers, and youth and Labor-exchange employment services administered by the Department of Commerce through formula grants;
- Adult education and literacy programs and Vocational Rehabilitation state grant programs that assist individuals with disabilities in obtaining employment.

WIOA Goals

- Increasing access to opportunities for the employment, education, training, and support services that individuals, particularly those with barriers to employment must have to meet the needs of employers;
- Supporting the alignment of workforce investment, education and economic development systems in support of a comprehensive, accessible and high-quality workforce development system;
- Improving the quality and labor market relevance of workforce investment, education and economic development efforts;
- Promoting improvement in the structure and delivery of services (customer experience);
- Increasing the prosperity of workers and employers;
- Provide workforce investment activities, through statewide and local workforce development systems;
 - That increase the employment, retention, and earnings of participants,
 - Increase attainment of recognized postsecondary credentials by participants,
 - As a result, improve the quality of the workforce, reduce welfare dependency, increase economic self-sufficiency, meet the skill requirements of employers, and enhance the productivity and competitiveness of the nation.

WIOA Alignment

- WIOA creates a core partner structure – Department of Commerce, Department for Children & Families, Kansas Board of Regents in cooperation with the five Local Workforce Development Boards
- Strengthens employer/industry partnerships;
 - Enhances industry/sector strategies,
 - Work-based strategies (incumbent worker training, registered apprenticeship, transitional jobs, on-job-training (OJT), customized training).
- WIOA ensures that employment and training services provided by the core programs are coordinated and complementary;
 - Single Unified Strategic Plan developed with core partners,
 - Plans will discuss the State's strategy to prepare an educated and skilled workforce and meet the workforce needs of employers,

- Equitable services border-to-border, quality/consistent customer experience,
- Integration of intake, case management, and reporting systems.

Kansas WIOA Implementation Timeline

- July 2014 – WIOA signed into law;
- **October 2014 – KANSASWORKS State Board voted to approve *Early Implementation of WIOA*;**
- November 2014 – WIOA Kick-off meeting with Core Partners (Workforce, DCF, ABE, KDOL);
- January 2015 – Establish monthly meetings with Local Areas;
 - Planning work groups,
 - Workforce System Services/customer flow
 - Continuous Improvement
 - Infrastructure
 - Business Outreach
 - Performance
 - Cost Sharing Parameters
 - Data/Common Intake/Common Case Management
 - Assessment of Services
- **January 2015 – KANSASWORKS State Board vote to approve *WIOA Board Composition policy*;**
- February 2015 - Workgroups determined and provided with charge and expected product;
- March 2015 - Determine plan structure with preliminary information from each work group; make specific writing assignment;
- Spring 2015 – Draft WIOA regulations published;
- April –June 2015 – Planning Work Groups write draft plan;
- July 2015 – Eligible Training Provider Policy established;
- July-Aug 2015 – Solicit Stakeholder Input of draft Unified State Plan;
- September 2015 – Post draft Unified Plan for public comment;
- October 2015 - Obtain **KANSASWORKS** State Board approval for final draft; submit to Department Of Labor/Department Of Education;
- January 2016 – Final WIOA rules/regulations published;
- March 2016 – Deadline for State Unified Plan submission.