

WIOA: What Human Services Agencies and Advocates Need to Know

Helly Lee

Senior Policy Analyst

hlee@clasp.org

Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act

- Passed with wide bipartisan majority in Congress
 - Senate voted 93-5; House voted 415-6
- WIOA was signed into law by President Obama on July 22, 2014
 - Many provisions take effect July 1, 2015; others July 1, 2016
- First reauthorization of national workforce programs in 16 years

WIOA scope

- Core Programs
 - Title I Adult, Dislocated Worker & Youth
 - Title II Adult Education and Family Literacy
 - Title III Employment Service (Wagner-Peyser)
 - Title IV Vocational Rehabilitation
- Service Delivery Partners at one-stops (mandatory)
 - TANF, Second Chance Act, CSBG, and others
- Other Potential Partners (optional)
 - SNAP E&T, Community Colleges, and others

What does it mean for a human service program to be a required partner?

- Mandatory partners must enter into a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the local board, relating to the operation of the one-stop system;
- Participate in the operation of the one-stop system per the MOU;
- Contribute funding toward maintaining the one-stop infrastructure;
- Provide access to the program's career services through the one-stop centers.

Additional Partners

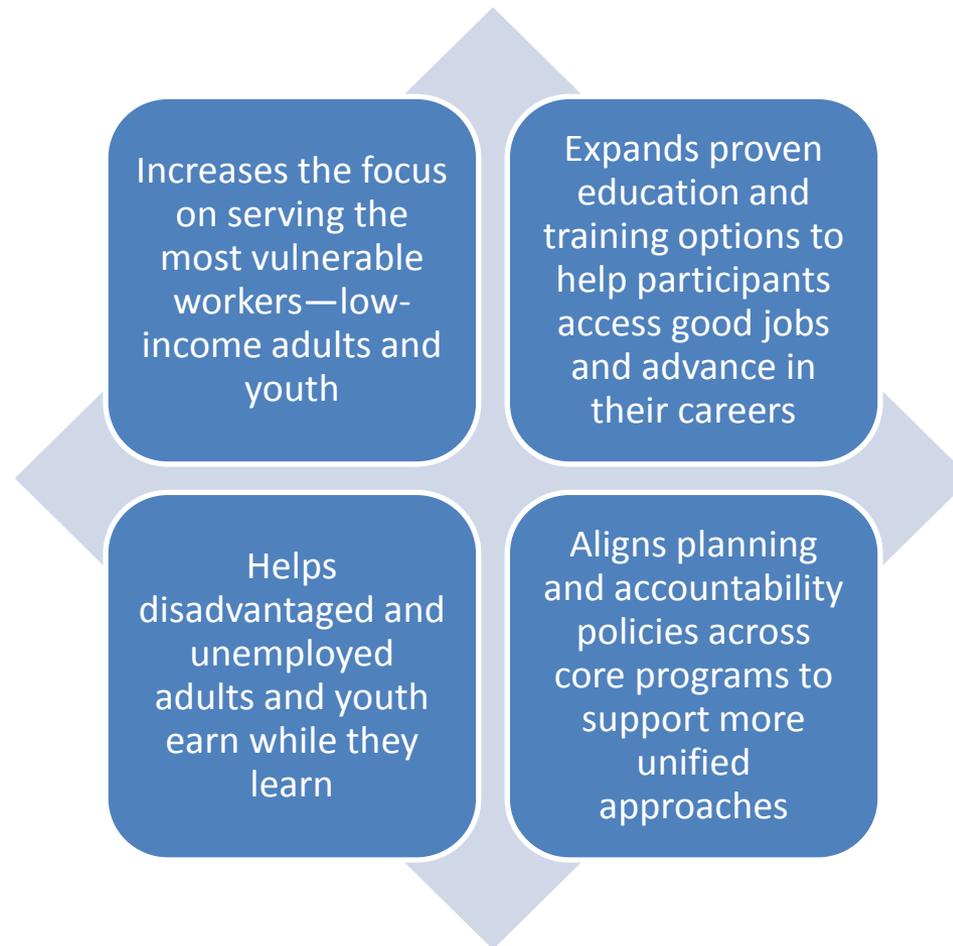
- Local workforce boards may opt to include additional partners.
- Requires local board and one stop partners to enter in an MOU concerning the operation of the one stop delivery system in the local area:
 - What services to be provided
 - How costs of services and operating costs will be funded
 - Methods of referral between one stop operator and partners
 - Methods to ensure needs of workers and youth are addressed

State Plans

Governor and the state workforce development board must create and submit a state plan to the Secretaries of Labor and Education.

- **Unified State Plan** – must describe a 4 year strategy for the core programs; OR
- **Combined State Plan** – includes strategy for the core programs and operational components of (at least 1 or more) other programs such as SNAP E&T, TANF, CSBG employment and training activities.

New opportunities for low-income and low-skilled adults and youth



WIOA targets services to workers with greatest needs

- Priority of Service strengthened
 - Public assistance recipients; individuals who are low-income and/or have barriers to employment
- Workforce boards must report on number of individuals who face barriers to employment and who received services, including disaggregated reporting by subpopulation
- 75% of Youth funds required to be spent on out-of-school youth (previously, 30%)
- Expands age range for out of school youth eligibility to 16-24 (previously, 16-21)

WIOA expands education and training options

- Faster access to training when appropriate (elimination of “sequence of services”)
- Public reporting on training
- Encourages Implementation of Career Pathways
- Contract training for cohorts and industry sector partnerships, including career pathways

What does this mean for human service providers?

- Opportunity to engage in the implementation of WIOA as a stakeholder
- Opportunities to provide input in the state plan
- Opportunity to engage in the make up of state and local workforce boards
- Ensure state and local workforce boards are engaged in an extensive planning process that includes human service providers, advocacy and community based organizations and others.



Key Dates

- Spring 2015 – Notice of Proposed Rule Making will be published; open comment period.
- July 1, 2015 – Majority of WIOA provisions will go into effect (including early implementation).
- January 22, 2016 – Final rules to implement WIOA will be published.
- March 3, 2016 – Deadline for state Unified Plan submission.

For more information

For additional resources on WIOA and to sign up for our upcoming series of workshops visit:

<http://www.clasp.org/issues/postsecondary/wioa-game-plan>