

## Introduction

The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) was signed into law on July 22, 2014 and became effective July 1, 2015. The passage of WIOA provides new authorizing legislation for programs previously authorized under the Workforce Investment Act (WIA). WIOA is landmark legislation designed to strengthen and improve our nation's public workforce system and to help put Americans back to work. WIOA presents an extraordinary opportunity to improve job and career options for our nation's workers and jobseekers through an integrated, job-driven public workforce system that links diverse talent to businesses through continuous improvement supported through evaluation, accountability, identification of best practices, and data-driven decision-making.

WIOA title I is a key component of the Arkansas workforce development delivery system. WIOA title I-A includes the state and local Workforce Development Boards. WIOA title I-B includes the WIOA Adult, Dislocated Worker, and Youth programs, as well as the One-Stop delivery system. WIOA title I-C is Job Corps. WIOA title I-D are National Programs (primarily Native American Programs, Migrant and Seasonal Farmworker Programs under Sec 167), National Dislocated Worker Grants, and the YouthBuild Program). This policy manual affects primarily WIOA title I-B, but some of it affects other programs, also.

The vision of the Arkansas workforce development system is that Arkansas will have a world-class workforce that is well educated, skilled, and working in order to keep Arkansas's economy competitive in the global marketplace. The mission is to promote and support a talent development system in Arkansas that offers employers, individuals, and communities the opportunity to achieve and sustain economic prosperity.

The vision for this delivery system is a quality focused, employer-driven, customer-centered system, tailored to meet the needs of regional economies. It is designed to increase access to, and opportunities for, the employment, education, training, and supportive services that individuals need in order to succeed in the labor market, particularly for those individuals with barriers to employment. It aligns workforce development, education, and economic development programs with regional economic development strategies to meet the needs of local and regional employers and to provide a comprehensive, accessible and high-quality workforce development system. This is accomplished by providing all customers access to high-quality workforce development centers that connect them with the full range of services available in their communities, whether they are looking for jobs, building basic educational or occupational skills, earning a postsecondary certificate or degree, obtaining guidance on how to make career choices, or are businesses and employers seeking skilled workers.

The purpose of the WIOA Title I-B Manual is to provide policy guidance and interpretation of Federal and State workforce laws, Federal regulations, and Federal guidance. Procedural guidance is also provided to assure consistency. It is not intended to provide comprehensive, step-by-step direction; such guidance should be developed at the local level. The manual is intended for use in conjunction with Federal and State laws and regulations. Every effort has been made to match this document to existing State and Federal policies and guidelines; however, if a conflict is identified, State and Federal laws, Federal regulations, and Federal technical guidance take precedence over the information in this manual.

Staff should use this manual as a guide to provide clarity, information, and resources that can enhance and improve service delivery and performance at the local area. This document is a living document that will be updated and expanded regularly, especially as new Federal guidance is issued.