

**Workforce<sup>3</sup>One**  
**Transcript of Webinar**  
**Welcome Opening**

*Transcript By  
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PORTIA WU: On July 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2014, President Obama signed into law the Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act. The law was enacted in Congress on a broad bipartisan basis and represents the first major reform of our nation's job-training system in over 15 years. This law couldn't come at a better time. With our growing economy, we have more Americans seeking good jobs and more employers looking for skilled workers.

The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act affirms the role of our workforce system and the importance of a comprehensive, customer-focused, accessible and high-quality system for the United States. One-Stop career centers continue to be a cornerstone of the public workforce system. This law brings together and enhances several key employment, education and training programs.

In recent years, over 20 million people each year turn to these programs to obtain good jobs, skills and a pathway to the middle class. The new law brings together core programs in federal workforce and skills development. Those programs include employment and training services for adults, dislocated workers and youth, as well as employment services administered by the Department of Labor, adult education and literacy programs, and state grant programs that assist individuals with disabilities in obtaining employment administered by the Department of Education. The law also provides the opportunities for numerous other programs across federal agencies to work together and come together in strategic planning at the state, regional and local level.

Coinciding with the enactment of WIOA, the vice president released a report in July 2014 entitled "Ready to Work: Job-Driven Training and American Opportunity." It was based upon his review of federal job-training programs. The report signals the administration's commitment to ensuring that federal programs are focused on getting more Americans ready to work with marketable skills.

We at the U.S. Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration, along with our sister agencies, are taking the necessary steps to ensure our programs follow such a job-driven approach to training, that we meet the needs of businesses and these programs are accountable for getting American workers into good jobs and careers as quickly as possible. The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act also includes numerous statutory changes that support and advance the president's job-driven training agenda.

The core of WIOA includes coordination among key federally funded employment and training programs and is intended to maximize the impact of our federal investments in job training. The law also envisions deep partnerships with community colleges, economic development, nonprofit organizations and social services agencies.

All of this work requires tremendous partnership among employment and training programs at the federal, state, local and service delivery level. To support that work, Department of Labor has collaborated closely with our sister agencies on implementation efforts in order to help states, regions and local workforce systems to align their strategies and resources. This collaboration will continue throughout our work to implement this new law.

Together with our sister agencies, we are providing information, tools and resources to support implementation. You can find information at our website, [www.doleta.gov/wioa](http://www.doleta.gov/wioa). Our colleagues in education also have sites to support implementation of the adult education and vocational rehabilitation provisions, and you can see links to their sites on this slide. These sites contain background on the law, fact sheets, frequently asked questions, and links to listening sessions and other stakeholder engagement activities.

We continue to solicit stakeholder feedback through numerous venues, requesting questions, concerns and ideas from a broad variety of community members. Our federal partners as well as their grantees and stakeholders have also been engaged as we seek this input. In the three months since the enactment of WIOA, ETA has worked with our federal partners to host seven town halls, including at least one town hall listening session in each region across the country. Our federal partners and DOL leadership have attended every town hall, signaling the importance of this implementation phase.

We've also solicited stakeholder input through a series of subject-specific webinars on topics such as strengthening the workforce system, changes to performance indicators, the role of apprenticeship, and serving diverse customers. ETA plans a second series of public engagement webinars, and the schedule for these webinars will be posted on our WIOA resource page.

The feedback we're receiving is supporting the development of our noticed of proposed rulemaking, implementation and other guidance, as well as technical assistance plans. We encourage you to share input and ask questions by contacting us at our email address, also posted here on the slide.

The collaboration the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act required across core programs at the state and regional level and across partner programs at the One-Stop service delivery level represents a significant culture change for many states and local areas. We believe that this job-driven training public workforce system can contribute to a strong and growing economy by responding to the workforce needs of regional and local businesses and other employers to ensure positive employment outcomes for job seekers and to help more American workers gain skills and opportunities to move into the middle class.

This work will be challenging; however, the impact on workers and job seekers across the country will be tremendous. We at the Department of Labor Employment and Training Administration look forward to engaging in this important work.

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