Hi, I’m Erin FitzGerald from the National Office of Job Corps. I will be sharing with you the major changes WIOA made to the Job Corps program.

This section will cover the following topics related to the Job Corps program:

• Program enhancements
• Center operator selection
• Performance reporting, and
• Oversight

Job Corps supports responsible citizenship and provides students with opportunities that will lead to successful careers resulting in economic self-sufficiency and prospects for advancement, or will lead to enrollment in postsecondary education.

Underlying all of the program enhancements contained in WIOA is a focus on improving the quality of the Job Corps program and achieving better outcomes for students.

WIOA emphasizes the establishment of community networks with employers, labor organizations, and state and local boards.

These changes aim to increase Job Corps’ effectiveness by improving its connections with the workforce system.

While the requirement for community participation in Job Corps is not new, the emphasis has been increased and the structure adjusted.

For example, rather than each center being required to have a Business Community liaison, WIOA places the responsibility for developing community networks on the center director.

WIOA places new emphasis on credential attainment, preparation for post-secondary education, aligning training to in-demand industry sectors and occupations, and connections with Registered Apprenticeships.

Through this new emphasis, WIOA again aims to increase the Job Corps program’s effectiveness.

WIOA introduces new requirements on the procurement of center operators in order to increase the performance and quality of the Job Corps program.

WIOA establishes consistent elements that Job Corps will consider when making contracting decisions by adding to the current list of factors that the Secretary must consider when awarding a contract and introducing a list of required elements that must be included in a contract proposal for operating a center.
Additionally, a center operator that operates a center that meets the criteria to be a “high performing” center may compete in any competitive selection process to operate that center, including small business set-asides.

Finally, the Secretary may not exercise option years for operators of “low performing” centers that do not meet minimum standards of performance.

As part of the continuing effort to better integrate and align Job Corps with the core programs, WIOA requires Job Corps to report on the common performance indicators applicable to the Youth formula program.

In addition, WIOA requires that the new performance indicators be used in decision-making about contract awards, and establishing performance improvement plans.

The Secretary’s required annual report to Congress on the performance of the Job Corps program will now include:

- The performance of individual centers and the program against expected levels of performance on the primary indicators.
- Information on the performance of outreach and admissions providers and career transition service providers against expected levels of performance on new statutory performance measures for recruitment and placement.
- Additional program data that reflects some elements currently found in the OMS.

Finally, WIOA requires the Department of Labor to collect more data on Job Corps operations and financial management to better inform Congress and the public about the program, including reporting semi-annually for the first three years on matters related to financial oversight.

The major provisions in WIOA related to the Job Corp program center around program enhancements, center operator selection, performance reporting, and oversight. As I’ve said previously, the central direction underlying all of these changes is a focus on improving the quality of the Job Corps program and achieving better outcomes for students.

Thank you.