

The Workforce Investment Act reauthorization will occur under your watch in 2010. The Illinois WIA Network can be used as a national model for innovation and delivery of service. We ask that you work to **strengthen** the system and legislate **room for local innovation** because WIA Works.

The 2010 WIA legislation should have these components:

Maintain Unique Roles

- WIA program administrators as the catalyst for community colleges and other providers to achieve outcome based training.
- WIA program administrators as the agent for job seekers to become skilled workers for key business sectors
- WIA program administrators as the vehicle for businesses to continue upgrading the skills of their employees
- Wagner-Peyser/Employment Services (Title 3) provides the labor exchange function for WIA program administrators to place job seekers in demand occupations

Local Boards Consisting of Private Sector Members with a Stake in the Outcome

- Allow flexibility to reflect the size and the principles of the area
- Allow local boards to make spending and program decisions based on the unique needs and opportunities of the communities
- Strategic investments are central to the focus of the Board's work and they must remain in their capacity as system-wide decision makers

Ability to Connect Everyone to Good Jobs

- Encourage life-long learning for job seekers so they have to services that build a successful career pathway
- All means "All" whether dislocated, disadvantaged or employed.
- Create a separate allocation for a designated Summer Youth Employment Program

Standards of Accountability Across the System

- Measures must be consistent across all federally funded partner programs
- Measures should be meaningful, i.e. “how many jobs”; what are the wages; how many completed training, etc.
- Measures should be based on changing local market information and demographics
- Measures should encourage service to individuals with significant barriers to employment

 Base training and educational strategies on Career Pathway Models

- Strategies should include sector partnerships that utilize existing services and infrastructure provided through WIA program administrators
- Skilled workforce needs should be identified and addressed within targeted industries or sectors
- Maximize established linkages between WIA program administrators and education, labor, business, etc. to encourage innovation

 Capacity for Training

- Training must suit the needs of the constituents
 - Contractual models should include incumbent worker and class size training
 - Blending of programs should be allowed to accelerate learning and assist students in gaining the skills and credentials required for higher paying jobs

 Eligibility Documentation

- Documentation should be consistent and transferable across partner programs. For example,
 - Eligibility for the school lunch program or other means-tested program should be sufficient for a youth to receive WIA services
 - A dislocated worker should not have to re-validate their dislocation for subsequent applications to other programs if a partner program has already confirmed it once