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## Workforce Investment Act/Workforce Investment Board/One Stop Career Centers

**Mission:** In 1998, Congress passed the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) to create a system of One-Stop Career Center locations that would provide universal access to employment and training services for a wide range of workers, including adults, low-income youth, and dislocated workers.

**Funding:** The WIA Title I monies are distributed to states on the basis of a formula. States similarly use a formula to distribute monies to local areas. In addition, until this year 15 percent of WIA Title I funding was held at the state level for statewide activities and program administration (the “governor’s discretionary funds”); and 25 percent of the dislocated workers funds were reserved for state rapid response activities in the case of major layoffs and firm shutdowns.

California received about \$400 million in federal WIA funds in 2011-12, but the 15 percent funds were reduced to 5 percent. The total is a sharp reduction from the WIA funds received in recent years. In 2009-10, California received \$497 million in WIA funds and \$470 million in WIA ARRA funds for a total of \$967 million. In 2010-11,

California received \$462 million in WIA funds.

Some local areas combine WIA dollars with other federal and state funds to support One-Stop Career Centers and other workforce activities. In the federal WIA legislation, 17 federal programs, including the Wagner-Peyser program, are designated as “required partners” in the One-Stop system. Wagner-Peyser services are co-located in most areas and fully integrated in some.

### **Administration, Governance, and Service**

**Delivery System:** At the state level, the Employment Development Department (EDD) within the Labor and Workforce Development Agency administers the WIA program (as well as the Wagner-Peyser program). The WIA also requires each state to establish a governor-appointed, private sector-dominated state board – the California Workforce Investment Board (CWIB) in this state – to set state workforce policy for WIA. However, the CWIB does not have formal, administrative authority over EDD, the local workforce investment boards (LWIBs), or the WIA required

partners. The CWIB is under the umbrella of the Labor and Workforce Development Agency.

At the local level, workforce policy is made by the LWIBs – also private sector-led and appointed by the lead elected official in their workforce investment area. Congress envisioned the LWIBs as regional brokers, analyzing and advancing the needs of their communities for workforce services. California has 49 LWIBs.

The WIA requires that each LWIB establish at least one comprehensive One-Stop Career Center in their area. A One-Stop Career Center is mandated to be a place where individuals and employers can come for a range of workforce-related information and services. One-Stop Career Centers are generally administered by a partnership of public organizations; in some cases, the partnership includes nonprofits or for-profit firms, as well. Currently, there are approximately 221 One-Stop Career Centers in California; not all of which are comprehensive.

**Population Served:** The WIA funds target three distinct populations: adults, youth, and dislocated workers.

**Services:** Every Californian is eligible to receive basic services such as labor market information and job search assistance from a One-Stop Career Center. More intensive services are available to unemployed job

seekers who have been unable to obtain jobs through basic services and to workers who are employed but need additional services to reach self-sufficiency. Training services are available for job seekers who have met the requirements for intensive services and have been unable to find or retain employment. Individual Training Accounts are established to finance training based upon an individual's choice of selected training programs. The WIA requires that when funds are limited low-income workers and veterans must receive priority of service.

One-Stop Career Centers also provide services to employers, including labor market information, recruitment, and screening.

**Accountability:** EDD is required to report to the U.S. Department of Labor Employment and Training Administration (ETA) on state and local performance measures. Accountability reporting is only required for participants who are enrolled in intensive services or training. Performance reporting uses a set of metrics that measure outcomes such as employment, earnings, retention, and attainment of a recognized credential. The WIA Title I reporting system in California is not linked to the reporting systems of the Adult Education Program, the community colleges, or other agencies that provide workforce services.