

About the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Implementation Study

The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), signed into law in 2014, aims to transform and modernize the American public workforce system by ensuring that services are evidence-based and guided by the needs of employers and workers, increasing access especially among individuals with significant barriers to employment, and improving the quality and outcomes of workforce services.

What is the focus of this study?

The purpose of this three-year study is to help the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) understand how states are implementing changes to the core workforce programs authorized under Title I (Adult, Dislocated Worker, and Youth) and Title III (Employment Services) of WIOA, as well as how the implementation is contributing to greater integration with stakeholders in programs authorized under Titles II (Adult Education and Literacy) and IV (Vocational Rehabilitation).

Mathematica and subcontractor Social Policy Research Associates are examining, under the guidance of the DOL Chief Evaluation Office and a technical working group, the range of approaches states are taking to implement key WIOA provisions, states' progress in implementing those approaches, and needs for further guidance and technical assistance.

What data will the study collect?

The study includes several data collection efforts which will inform findings:

1. A review of federal guidance and documentation related to monitoring and technical assistance already being provided to states;
2. Interviews with key informants at the federal level, including DOL regional staff and technical assistance providers identified as key sources of guidance on priority WIOA provisions;
3. Interviews with staff in seven states who are "early implementers", and can provide insight into approaches to implement key WIOA reforms and potential challenges that other states may encounter;
4. A survey of state-level workforce administrators in all 50 states and the District of Columbia;
5. Site visits to 18 states and up to two local areas per state; and
6. Analyses of WIASRD and PIRL reporting data.

When will the study happen?

The study began in October 2016 and will continue until September 2019.

What will the study produce?

The study team will develop several products to share the findings from the study with key stakeholders at DOL as well as the workforce development community. These include a final report, issue briefs and special topic papers, briefings or presentations, and other dissemination products.

To find out more:

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