



FACT SHEET

House Committee on Education and Labor
Chairman Robert C. "Bobby" Scott

Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2022 (H.R. 7309) *Strengthening and modernizing our nation's workforce development system*

For decades, the United States has chronically underfunded workforce training programs under the *Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)*.

WIOA is the backbone of our nation's workforce development system. The law provides training and career services that help working people across the country get the skills they need and help employers secure a qualified workforce. WIOA includes funding for job training for adults, dislocated workers, and youth as well as supportive services to help participants complete training and join the workforce.

The authorization for WIOA expired in 2020 and federal investment in workforce development has fallen markedly over time. While the U.S. labor force has grown by roughly half over the past four decades, federal spending on workforce development has [fallen by two-thirds](#). Since 2002, workforce formula programs have seen a roughly 45 percent decline in enacted federal funding, when adjusted for inflation. As a result, essential workforce development services are frequently unavailable to the people who need them most.

Strengthening WIOA programs is a key tool to help Americans get back to work.

The COVID-19 pandemic has forced millions of workers into unemployment or underemployment, and left employers with millions of job openings. WIOA's programs are well-suited to support businesses and help workers find pathways to more sustainable careers. Congress can help grow our economy by reauthorizing WIOA, which would expand access to high-quality job training, career navigation services, and other critical services.

About the *Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2022*

The *Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2022* reauthorizes and strengthens our nation's workforce development system. The legislation:

- Fully funds WIOA programs by authorizing \$74 billion over six years, which will allow the workforce system to serve one million workers per year by 2028;
- Establishes a permanent Department of Labor program to help individuals released from incarceration transition back to employment and access sustainable career pathways;
- Expands summer and year-round jobs programs for youth;
- Strengthens the quality of the Jobs Corps program;
- Codifies partnerships between employers and community colleges to provide high-quality job training;
- Strengthens industry and sector partnerships to better meet the needs of both employers and job seekers; and
- Provides funding for innovative approaches to workforce development.