

Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Fact Sheet

The federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) offers a comprehensive range of workforce development activities to help job seekers and workers access employment, education, training, and support services to succeed in the labor market and to match employers with the skilled workers they need to compete in the global economy.

Available workforce development activities provided in local communities can benefit job seekers, dislocated workers, youth, incumbent workers, new entrants to the workforce, veterans, persons with disabilities, and employers.

The purpose of these activities is to promote an increase in the employment, job retention, earnings, and occupational skills of participants. This, in turn, improves the quality of the workforce, reduces welfare dependency, and improves the productivity and competitiveness of the nation.

Available Services

Title I of WIOA authorizes services for youth, adults, and dislocated workers.

Eligible youth must be 14 to 24 years of age and face one or more specified barriers to employment. The youth program emphasizes the attainment of basic skills competencies, enhances opportunities for academic and occupational training, and provides exposure to the job market and employment.

Eligible dislocated workers are generally individuals who have been terminated from their last employment and are unlikely to return to their previous industry or occupation. Displaced homemakers, self-employed individuals, and the spouse of a member of the Armed Forces on active duty may also qualify for dislocated worker services. Adults and dislocated workers are provided with employment related services, training, education, and other programs and services through Pennsylvania CareerLink[®] of Bucks County. CareerLink uses varied strategies in providing the appropriate services to meet the needs of their customers:

- **Basic Career Services** may include eligibility determinations, labor market information, initial assessment of skill levels, and job search and placement assistance.

- **Individualized Career Services** may include comprehensive and specialized assessments, diagnostic testing, in-depth interviewing and evaluation, individual or group counseling, career planning, and workforce preparation activities.
- **Training Services** may include occupational skills training, on-the-job training, and incumbent worker training. Individual Training Accounts are established to finance training from an approved list of eligible providers.

Benefits of WIOA

Services provided by WIOA at the local level offer a variety of benefits to both program participants and the communities in which they reside:

- **Job Seekers**
 - Advice, guidance, and assistance with career planning.
 - Access to labor market employment statistics information, job search, and placement assistance.
 - Opportunity for skills upgrade through education and training.
- **Youth**
 - Assistance with completion of a high school diploma or its equivalent.
 - Leadership development opportunities, including paid or unpaid work experience.
 - Potential for higher wages and increased self-sufficiency as a result of education and training.
- **Employers**
 - Job-seekers trained to meet employer's local labor needs.
 - Training and skills upgrades for existing full-time employees.
 - Layoff aversion and rapid response employment and training services for dislocated workers.
- **Community**
 - Services tailored to meet specific Local Area workforce needs.
 - Improved workforce quality and increased job placement rates.
 - Reduced dependence on public assistance and unemployment compensation benefits.

For more information on CareerLink[®], please visit our website at www.pacareerlink.pa.gov, or 215-781-1073 to speak to a CRC Navigator who will connect you to services.

CareerLink is an equal opportunity employer/program.
Auxiliary aids and services are available.