



Chief Local Elected Officials under the Workforce Investment Act

What is the Workforce Investment Act?

The Workforce Investment Act (WIA) of 1998 establishes the structure and relationship between national, state and local workforce investment activities. The purpose of WIA Title I-B is “to provide workforce investment activities, through statewide and local workforce investment systems, that increase the employment, retention, and earnings of participants, and increase occupational skill attainment by participants, and as a result, improve the quality of the workforce, reduce welfare dependency, and enhance the productivity and competitiveness of the Nation.”

What is the Role of designated Chief Local Elected Officials under the Workforce Investment Act?

According to the National Association of Counties, “the leadership role of elected officials is essential to maximizing WIA’s impact in state and local jurisdictions through collaboration with state and local Workforce Investment Boards.”

In Program Year 2012, the U.S. Department of Labor allocated over \$55.4 million in WIA Title I-B funds to Washington for employment and training services designed to benefit employers, dislocated workers, disadvantaged adults, and low income youth.

Program	Workforce Investment Act Title I-B		
Who is Served?	Low income youth 14 through 21 years old.	Low income job seekers 18 and older.	Dislocated workers
How many individuals are served annually?	3,972	4,983	6,786
Annual Federal Funds	\$16.9 million	\$15.7 million	\$22.7 million

There are 12 Workforce Development Councils (WDCs) in Washington. In addition to overseeing the administration of WIA Title IB, the core business of the WDCs is to convene workforce development partners and stakeholders at the regional level in order to assess skill gaps, to determine the region’s workforce development plan in coordination with economic development, and to facilitate interagency projects and programs.

Designated Chief Local Elected Officials (CLEOs) oversee the work of the Council and the CLEOs are responsible for appointing members to serve on their area council. The Governor certifies the 12 area councils every two years. WDC staff assist the CLEOs by tracking when council member vacancies occur, by coordinating member nomination processes and watching out that membership composition remains in compliance with federal and state membership composition criteria.

The majority of the WIA Title I-B funds are allocated to the state's 12 Workforce Development. The CLEOs direct the Council and its WDC administrative entity to administer the WIA funds. The designated CLEOs and the WDC administrative entity may enter into a written agreement describing the respective roles and responsibilities of the parties.

Each WDC is responsible for establishing an annual WIA budget subject to approval by the CLEOs. Each WDC establishes a local WIA plan and local WIA policies in consultation with the CLEOs.

The WDC has oversight responsibility for the WorkSource Centers (the state's one-stop career development centers) located within their workforce development area. WDCs select the WorkSource Center Operator with agreement of the CLEOs. Each local area must meet WIA federal and state performance outcome measures, and may determine additional performance outcomes tailored to meet the particular needs of local and regional labor markets. Last year, 336,508 Washington residents received help getting a job at one of the 65 WorkSource Centers and affiliate sites located throughout the state.

The WDCs continually track the performance of the three WIA Title I-B grants and report outcomes to Council members and to the community. The Employment Security Department prepares a WIA annual report to the U.S. Department of Labor. The report includes, among other details, the WIA performance outcomes for each the 12 Workforce Development Areas. The most recent report is at:

<http://www.wtb.wa.gov/Documents/WIA2012.pdf>

More information on Workforce Development Councils at:

http://www.wtb.wa.gov/Policy_Fed_WIA.asp