

Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)

Opportunity for Employment Services for Individuals Experiencing Homelessness

Northern Tier RHAB

At the Federal Level:

- Signed into law July 2014
- Final Rule January 22, 2016
- Full implementation July 2, 2016

- Benefits adults and youth with barriers to economic success:
 - Increases the focus on serving the most vulnerable workers, in particular low income adults and youth who:
 - Have limited skills
 - Lack work experience
 - Face other barriers to economic success
 - Expands education and training options
 - Helps disadvantaged and unemployed adults and youth earn while they learn
 - Aligns planning and accountability policies across core programs to support more unified approaches to serving low-income, low- skilled workers

At the State Level:

- PA Draft Plan out for public comment December 28, 2015.
- Comments due February 1, 2016.
- Final Plan due March 3, 2016
- From Introduction to State Plan:

“System access will be enhanced through the use of technology and ***create partnerships with community organizations and other service providers.*** While access will be improved for all jobseekers and incumbent works, ***the provision of services and training will be focused on those most in need and hardest to serve.***”

- Specific relevant points:

Goal 1: Establish Career Pathways:

1.5. The commonwealth will mainstream jobseekers with barriers to employment to the maximum extent possible by offering realistic entry

points into career pathways and by ensuring necessary supportive services are in place and coordinated across agencies, so that those individuals with the most significant barriers to employment are successful in accessing and navigating career pathways.

Goal 2: Invest in Talent and Skills for Targeted Industries in Strategic Partnership with Employers and Educational Institutions:

2.9. The commonwealth will provide priority of service to veterans and eligible spouses, recipients of public assistance, other low-income individuals and individuals who are basic skills deficient as mandated by WIOA..... the commonwealth will focus efforts on those with barriers to employment, including those with the follow barriers as defined in WIOA: individuals with disabilities including youth with disabilities; older individuals; ex-offenders; homeless individuals; youth who are in or have aged out of the foster care system; ...

Goal 3: Increase Work-Based Learning Opportunities for Youth:

.....the commonwealth with work closely with each Local Workforce Development Board to negotiate levels of performance that reflect the needs and challenges of the new service population. In this way, local areas will not be penalized for enrolling high-need and difficult to service individuals who are the focus of the WIOA youth activities.

At the RHAB Level:

- How the RHAB can work with the WIB in preparation for the implementation of the State Plan:
 - Review the draft State Plan and provide comments to RA-LI-PAWDB@pa.gov.
 - The Plan is available at: <http://www.dli.pa.gov/Businesses/Workforce-Development/Pages/default.aspx#.VorAXLYrJQJ>
 - Share basic information on how the CoC and Workforce Board systems work:
 - Invite WIB and CareerLink representatives to RHAB meetings
 - Schedule a forum to provide presentations on both systems
 - Provide workforce system staff a tour of local homeless services, highlighting supportive services that could help program participants to

secure and maintain employment

- Have representation on each other's boards.
- Provide concrete ways workforce planners can address the needs of jobseekers experiencing homelessness.
- Collaborate on developing employment goals for the CoC and in developing performance expectations for workforce system providers.
- Cross-train staff around provision of services to people with disabilities, homeless, youth, and other vulnerable populations.