

The Workforce
Innovation and
Opportunity Act (WIOA)
& What it Means to VR

WIOA

- Overwhelming bi-partisan passage
- Signed into law July 22, 2014
- Includes with Workforce Investment Act & the Rehabilitation Act of 1973
 - Rehab. Act was 10 years past due for reauthorization
 - Noteworthy: Title I and Title IV

Collaboration/Aligning Systems

- “Align” systems like VR and workforce development
 - Engaging colleges & school districts
 - One-Stop
 - LWIBs
- Unified State Plan (4 core programs)

Performance Measures

- 1) % in unsubsidized employment after 90 days from exiting the program (during the second quarter)
- 2) % in unsubsidized employment after 270 days from exiting the program (during the fourth quarter)
- 3) Median earnings or earnings during the second quarter after exit

Performance Measures

- 4) % who obtain a recognized postsecondary credential or diploma or equivalent during or within one year of program exit
- 5) % that are in an education or training program that leads to a postsecondary credential and who achieve measurable skill gains towards such credential or employment
- 6) Effectiveness in serving employers

Transition

- 15% of Section 110 grant funds in reserve
- Required pre-employment transition services
- 50% of SE grant funds in reserve
 - 10% match requirement
 - Follow-along supports up to 4 years

Qualifications for Counselors

- Bachelor's in a field “reasonably related” to vocational rehabilitation
- One year of paid or unpaid work experience in just about anything

Additional Changes

- IL moved to HHS
- Consumers can be eligible if their disability hinders their ability to “advance” in employment
- IPE written within 90 days
- Support advance training in STEM fields

Thank you

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