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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