

WIOA and Workforce Development

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WIOA Aligns Planning & Accountability Policies

- Required: unified planning process
- Common measures across multiple programs
- Better coordination of services to low-income individuals through shared accountability
- Credential and skill gains measures
- Performance expectations adjusted for economic and demographic factors

White House Policy Priority: Job-Driven Training

- At July 2014 WIOA bill signing, VP Biden issued “Ready to Work” report
 - 25+ discretionary federal grants (\$1.4 B)
 - 50+ agency initiatives
- Job-Driven Checklist:
 - Employer Engagement
 - Earn and Learn Strategies
 - Career Pathways
 - Driven by data and labor market information
 - Regional Stakeholder Partnerships

The Financial Opportunity Center Model

- 76 FOCs in 20 metro areas
 - Intentional integration of three core services:
 - **Employment Services**
 - **Financial Services**
 - **Income Supports Access**
- Over 23,000 individuals received bundled services from the FOCs
 - **5,800 people placed in jobs**
 - **6,200 improved their net income**
 - **5,300 improved their net worth**
 - **5,700 improved their credit score**

Barriers to Skills Attainment

- Skills training programs available, but many individuals lack readiness to learn
- Barriers include
 - FOC clients testing at the 4-6 grade reading and math levels (even with HS diplomas or GEDs)
 - Lack of exposure to jobs with career pathways
 - Understanding academic ladder including time involved
 - Understanding career ladder including wage ranges at various rungs)
 - Financial instabilities
 - Family, social, emotional struggles

What is Bridge?

- Basic education in the contextualized language of the career pathway
- Uses FOC career coaching, financial coaching and income supports to address individual's needs
- Experiential learning component: labs, mentoring, internships, or apprenticeships
- Bridges can exist at various points of an academic path—FOCs are typically bridging to 8th grade levels



LISC Bridges to Career Opportunity

- Building connections to employers
- Assisting in skills training entry and academic readiness (bridge course)
- Linking clients with skills training providers
- Providing FOC services to help support the client through completion of training:
 - Employment services (e.g., career coaching)
 - Financial coaching
 - Access to income supports
- Placing people in jobs and supporting them post placement



Questions