



**Submitting Organization** – United States Workforce Associations

**Prepared for:** Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies

**Agencies:** Department of Labor, Department of Education

The Honorable Patty Murray  
Chairman  
Senate Labor, HHS, Education  
Appropriations Subcommittee  
154 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Roy Blunt  
Ranking Member  
Senate Labor, HHS, Education  
Appropriations Subcommittee  
260 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Murray and Ranking Member Blunt:

The undersigned organizations make up the United States Workforce Association (USWA), a collaborative effort of local workforce boards, businesses, educational institutions, and organizations involved in workforce and economic development activities across the country. These organizations are directly involved in the implementation of the bipartisan Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) of 2014, specifically promoting the successful execution by local workforce boards of the law to serve businesses, employers, and job - and career-seekers. As our country grappled with unprecedented demand for unemployment insurance and economic recession within the COVID-19 pandemic, the employer-led, local workforce development system responded with critical supports and services. Adequate federal funding would ensure the system is poised to address these community needs as we continue to recover from the devastating health and economic effects of COVID-19.

As the Senate Appropriations Committee considers the Fiscal Year 2022 Labor-HHS Appropriations Bill, we urge you to support further federal investment into WIOA and fully fund the law beyond its FY2020 authorized levels. Appropriated levels have fallen short of authorized levels specifically in Title I accounts at the Department of Labor (Adult Employment and Training Services, Youth Workforce Investment Activities, and Dislocated Worker Employment and Training Services). An expanded federal investment across WIOA programs leads to more job training, education, skills development and innovative, proven practices like industry-based sector partnerships, career pathways, and apprenticeships. These strategies will need to be implemented seamlessly to respond to the effects of COVID-19. The established local workforce system is well-positioned to enhance efforts for an equitable recovery; low wage, low skill workers and minority populations were hit hardest by COVID-19. The federal funding structure, which allows these funds to be invested locally, provides for intentional investments to help those most in need.

Local workforce development leaders are engaged directly with businesses to help keep individuals employed and design training/education programs to prepare the workforce for the future. We continue to work with unemployed individuals to help them stay connected to the workforce and evaluate other opportunities; recent BLS data suggests nearly 41% of those unemployed have been unemployed for at least 27 weeks (long-term unemployed)<sup>1</sup>. Business services, especially for small and medium-sized enterprises, have been critical during the COVID-19 pandemic as employers sought to maintain payrolls and find workers as businesses began to re-open. Increased federal appropriations are greatly needed to address this unprecedented health, economic, and social destabilization.

The Fiscal Year 2022 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill must fully fund all Titles I, II, III, and IV at a minimum to the level authorized by the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA).

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.bls.gov/charts/employment-situation/unemployed-27-weeks-or-longer-as-a-percent-of-total-unemployed.htm>

The funding levels we are requesting in the FY2022 Labor, HHS, Education Appropriations Bill are listed below:

**Title I – Department of Labor**

- At least \$899.987 million for Adult Employment and Training Services,
- At least \$963.837 million for Youth Workforce Investment Activities, and
- At least \$1.436 billion for Dislocated Worker Employment and Training Services

**Title II – Department of Education**

- \$678.640 million for Adult Education

**Title III – Department of Labor**

- \$692,370,000 for Wagner-Peyser (FY2021 Enacted)

**Title IV – Department of Education**


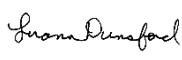
- \$3,675,021,000 for Vocational Rehabilitation Services (FY2021 Enacted)

This training, support and business partnership is vital to our country's economic prosperity. For further information, please contact Chris Andresen at (202) 851-3618.

Sincerely,





Bob Lanter  
Executive Director  
California Workforce Association



Luann Dunsford, CEO  
Michigan Works! Association



Jennifer Meek Eels  
President  
Ohio Workforce Association



Kelly Folks, President  
Rocky Mountain Workforce  
Development Association



Melinda Mulawka Mack  
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New York Association of Training and  
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President  
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Mari Kay-Nabozny  
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MARYLAND WORKFORCE  
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OREGON WORKFORCE  
PARTNERSHIP

Heather Ficht, Chair  
Oregon Workforce Partnership



FLORIDA  
WORKFORCE  
DEVELOPMENT  
ASSOCIATION

Robin King, President  
Florida Workforce Development Association

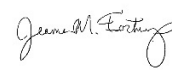


CHAIRMAN



AWA ARIZONA WORKFORCE ASSOCIATION

Teri Drew, Chairman  
Arizona Workforce Association



MINNESOTA ASSOCIATION  
OF WORKFORCE BOARDS

Jeanna Fortney, Director  
Minnesota Association of Workforce Boards



Indiana  
Workforce  
Board  
Alliance  
Regional Executive Services Transformation

Angela Carr Klitzsch, Chair  
Indiana Workforce Board Alliance



WORKforce  
PA Workforce Development Association

Carrie Amann, Executive Director  
Pennsylvania Workforce Development Association