

Workforce Investment Act

What is the Workforce Investment Act?

In 1998, Congress passed the Workforce Investment Act (WIA), replacing the Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA) as the largest single source of federal funding for workforce development activities. WIA was designed to create a universal access system of one-stop career centers to provide access to training and employment services for a range of workers, including low-income adults, low-income youth, dislocated workers and people with disabilities.

Although WIA expired in 2003, Congress has continued to appropriate funds for its programs, but at steadily declining levels. Despite the recession, the President's budget again proposes to combine WIA's youth, adult and dislocated worker funding streams, and to reduce combined funding for these programs by 15 percent.

What are Goodwill's recommendations for WIA reauthorization?

Goodwill Industries® believes that one of the United States' top priorities as a nation must be to invest in the future of our workforce and to help individuals with barriers to work obtain the skills necessary to become self-sufficient. The reauthorization of WIA offers a new opportunity to ensure that our public workforce system is responsive to the diverse needs of workers. To that end, Goodwill® offers the following recommendations:

- Increase funding for workforce investment programs.
- Promote greater access to training.
- Create incentives for targeting "harder-to-serve" populations.
- Address the needs of ex-offenders.
- Address the needs of people with disabilities.

How is Goodwill involved with WIA?

Goodwill is a network of 184 community-based, independent member organizations in the United States, Canada, and 14 other countries providing job training and employment services to people with severe barriers to employment. In 2007, 1.1 million people benefited from Goodwill's career services, including 164,000 people who were placed in jobs. Many of our local agencies operate one-stop centers or function as service providers in the public workforce system.

What action can I take?

We urge you to support increased funding for WIA's youth, adult and dislocated workers programs.

Support reauthorization of WIA.

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Program	FY 2008 Funding Level	President's FY 2009 Request	Proposed Change	Represented Change
WIA Adults	\$849,101,443	\$712,000,000	-\$137,101,443	-16%
WIA Youth	\$924,069,465	\$840,500,000	-\$83,569,465	-9%
WIA Dislocated Workers ¹	\$1,169,025,002	\$942,956,000	-\$226,069,002	-19%
Combined WIA Funding	\$2,942,195,910	\$2,495,456,000	-\$446,739,910	-15%

¹Represents funding for grants to states and does not include funding for the dislocated workers assistance national reserve.

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