

2025 WIOA Roundtable In-Person Session

WIOA in Wisconsin

Wednesday, Oct. 29, 2025
8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Midstate Technical College
Wisconsin Rapids campus

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Time	Description
7:30 – 8:30 a.m.	Registration and Networking
8:30 – 8:45 a.m.	Welcome Remarks and Event Overview – Department of Workforce Development (DWD) Secretary Amy Pechacek
8:45 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.	Educational Sessions and Presentations – Large Group
Block 1 8:45 – 10:00 a.m.	• WIOA State Plan Overview – Patrick Lonergan, Policy Advisor, DWD ○ A review of the goals and joint sections within the WIOA State Plan and how today's discussions will advance future planning and development. • The Feasibility Study: An Exploration of Wisconsin's Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Program – Marci Ybarra, Ph.D., University of Wisconsin-Madison: Sandra Rosenbaum School of Social Work ○ UW-Madison Institute for Research on Poverty will share findings from a feasibility study conducted in response to a 2021 Job Center Task Force recommendation to assess WIOA one-stop services, identify best practices, and explore opportunities for improvement.
10:00 a.m.	BREAK: Speed Networking and Hallway Conversations
Block 2 10:15 – 11:15 a.m.	• National Governors Association Center for Best Practices: Leading Strategic Partnerships and Initiatives – Sophia Yager, Senior Policy Analyst, NGA Center for Best Practices ○ Insights from the NGA on federal updates, strategies for driving effective partnerships and initiatives, and approaches for transforming WIOA challenges into workforce solutions. • Wisconsin Business Climate Survey Results – Emily Hein, Council on Workforce Investment Analyst, DWD ○ Results from a statewide survey of employers throughout Wisconsin about the needs and constraints facing Wisconsin businesses, as well as employers' input on addressing those issues. • Beyond Compliance: Turning MOUs into Meaningful Collaboration – Stephanie Elmer, Bureau of Workforce Training Director, DWD ○ Exploring how to shift from meeting minimum requirements to creating real, meaningful collaboration within the one-stop delivery system through MOUs and partnerships.

11:15 a.m.	BREAK: Speed Networking and Hallway Conversations
Block 3 11:30 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.	• WIOA Performance: Reporting Essentials and Understanding the Data Lifecycle – Kristina Krizan, Data Domain Steward & WIOA Performance Planner, DWD ○ Understanding the requirements for reporting WIOA data and the WIOA data and reporting lifecycle. • Workforce Data Integration System (WDIS): Learning Agenda and Evidence Plan – Ellie Hartman, PhD, Chief Evaluation Officer Workforce Data Integration System, DWD ○ An overview of DWD's evidence vision and the Workforce Data Integration System, highlighting efforts to strengthen data use, evaluation, and continuous improvement.
12:15 p.m.	BREAK: Speed Networking and Hallway Conversations
12:30 – 1:15 p.m.	Networking Lunch
1:15 p.m.	BREAK: Speed Networking and Hallway Conversations
1:30 – 3:30 p.m.	Facilitated Discussion – Regional Breakouts by Workforce Development Areas • Attendees will participate in workshops with their regional colleagues, peers, and counterparts from across the state to discuss common challenges and generate practical solutions to address those challenges. • Using conference ideas and best practices shared by WIOA Title and partner program staff from other Workforce Development Areas, conference attendees will participate in regional workshops and collaborate to develop an action plan with objectives and activities for the coming year.
3:30 p.m.	BREAK
3:35 p.m.	Reconvene for Debrief and Discussions from Breakouts
4:05 p.m.	Adjourn