



# YES, WIOA CAN!

Yes, WIOA can help build a strong, resilient economy  
where no one is left behind.

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## What is Yes, WIOA Can?

- Yes, WIOA Can is a strategy, an approach to pursuing bold and innovative actions to strengthen our workforce infrastructure, while centering equity in everything we do.
- It is a reframing of what we know; a way of looking at WIOA through the lens of **Possibility** rather than **Restriction**.



## What is Yes, WIOA Can?

- Yes, WIOA Can officially launched in October of 2022 with the Deputy Secretary's blog announcement.
- DOL prioritizes this strategy in our internal communications within the Agency; and in outreach with Federal partners.
- We are also sharing this vision with Intergovernmental organizations including NASWA, NGA, and NAWB to name a few.



## Why the Shift?

- Lessons Learned from the Pandemic.
- Support Priorities of the Biden Administration
- Maximize Workforce System Successes in a Changing Economy



## Why the Shift?

- DOL recognizes some of our programs and policies may be perpetuating systemic barriers.
- We can all, at the federal State and local level, take steps to address and remove those barriers. So, what can our Agency do?



## Here is what we are doing:

- Broadening horizons through new guidance: revisiting guidance to insure it is not creating unnecessary barriers to equitable service delivery.
- Clarifying existing policies that create ambiguity on allowable expenditures under WIOA.



## Here's what we are doing:

- We are reviewing pain point areas like data validation, ETPL, and Infrastructure funding agreements, looking for areas of opportunity for innovation, and areas that could be less restrictive.
- Seeking and Utilizing Flexibilities: We will continue to make waivers available, particularly those that help meet program and service goals.



## Here's what you can do:

- **Help build and invest in sector-based labor-management partnerships** that result in effective training programs tied to quality jobs.
- **Integrate job quality and equity requirements in programs and grants**, so resources target communities where workers face the greatest barriers to good jobs.





## Here's what you can do:

- **Provide access to supportive services;** from care to transportation and more, to enhance workers' opportunities for growth and success.
- **Measure success not just by if a worker gets a job,** but whether the most vulnerable workers get connected to good jobs.



## Essence of Yes WIOA Can in Guidance:

- Equity and Job Quality: TEN 8-22 (October, 2022)

Summary: a **framework** and vision for the role of the public workforce system as a **strategic partner** in creating and supporting **pathways to millions of good-paying infrastructure jobs** with high labor standards, including prevailing wages and the free and fair choice to join a union and collectively bargain, as the historic Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) investments ramp up.



## Essence of Yes WIOA Can in Guidance:

From TEN 8-22:

### **Framework for Collaboration and Innovation**

- Partnership Development
- Planning
- Proven Strategies and Programs



## Essence of Yes WIOA Can in Guidance:

- Youth Program TEGL 9-22 (March, 2023)

Summary: (establishes) the Employment and Training Administration priorities for youth programs, and further clarifies WIOA Youth program policies. It also provides information to help states and local areas improve services, supports, and outcomes for youth, particularly opportunity youth (out-of-school and out-of-work youth), by **integrating equity and job quality principles** into program design and service delivery as well as **elevating youth voice and addressing mental health.**



## Essence of Yes WIOA Can in Guidance

- Youth Program TEGL 9-22 Attachment I (March, 2023)

### Departmental Vision and Priorities for Youth

- Equity
- Job Quality/ Quality Work Experiences
- Apprenticeships and Pre-Apprenticeships
- Mental Health/Trauma Informed Care
- Youth Voice



## Essence of Yes WIOA Can in Guidance

- Youth Program TEGL 9-22

### The Old is New!

- Eligibility Determination: Self Attestation is an acceptable source for documenting Youth Eligibility.
- Allowable Costs: Food is allowable, if it enables participation.
- Digital Literacy and Access: WIOA funds can be used to pay for tech devices and broadband service.
- Supportive Services used for Work Experience can now be counted as WE expenditures.



## What is Yes, WIOA Can?

- Yes WIOA Can is a mindset, a posture for looking at the same guidance with fresh eyes.
- Yes WIOA Can includes a focus on Partnership Building and Breaking down Barriers. Together, we're better!



## What are the opportunities?

- Take advantage of areas in guidance that encourage the use of State and/or Local flexibilities.
- Use good judgement; the Prudent Person in action!
- Keep in mind our shared mission of serving those most in need.





## What is Yes, WIOA Can?

**Question:** *Can the Roadtrip Nation program count as the academic and occupational component for a work experience?*

Per TEGL 21-16, local programs have the flexibility to determine the appropriate type of academic and occupational education necessary for a specific work experience.

**Answer:** *The Road Trip Nation component can be counted as an academic and occupational skill component to compliment a WEX. There is no federal guidance prescribing a specific type of academic classroom learning; flexibility allows locals to determine what is best.*



## What is Yes, WIOA Can?

**Question:** *Can Rapid Response funds be used to provide Lean Six Sigma training for an employer?*

A local board in CA worked with an employer who was losing business to overseas competition and wanted to act to prevent layoffs. The board paid for the training, and the employer was able to avert a layoff and even brought workers back.

**Answer:** ***YES, WIOA CAN!***



## Workforce GPS- NEW!

### Yes, WIOA Can! Community of Practice

#### Success Stories:

- Expand the Reach of AJCs
  - Build Strong Sector Strategies
  - Meet Workers Where they are
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- Share your Yes WIOA Can innovation or positive practice on the COP!

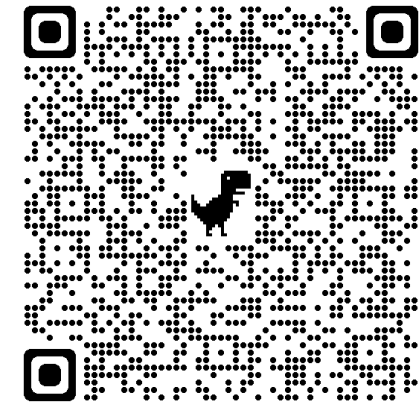


Workforce GPS

New Community of Practice - Yes, WIOA CAN!

[New Community: Yes, WIOA Can!](#)

Submit your WIOA innovation by scanning the QR code





## Workforce GPS

New Community of Practice - Yes, WIOA CAN!

[New Community: Yes, WIOA Can!](#)

Brent Parton video message –

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oHnstYWNMnE>



QUESTIONS?

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