The National Alliance to End Homelessness (Alliance) is a leading national voice on the issue of homelessness. To accomplish its mission of ending homelessness, the Alliance uses data and research to identify the nature of, and solutions to, the problem. It analyzes policy to determine how best to advance these solutions. And, it helps build the capacity of communities to implement strategies that help them end homelessness.
Send us your questions!

- Lines are muted to facilitate this call.
- A recording of this webinar will be posted online at:
  www.endhomelessness.org

Submit Questions!

If you have questions during the webinar, submit them in the question box on your control panel. We will answer as many questions as possible at the end of the webinar.
Agenda

• Heartland Alliance Programs
• Introduction to the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)
• WIOA Planning & Implementation Toolkit
• Seattle King County Partnership
Meeting the Needs of Jobseekers Experiencing Homelessness
National **Initiatives** on Poverty & Economic Opportunity

We are dedicated to **ending** chronic unemployment and poverty.
National Center on Employment & Homelessness (NCEH)

Through NCEH, we work to ensure that employment in quality jobs is a key element in the fight to prevent and end homelessness.

Advance systems change

Identify & advance evidence-based employment interventions

Promote employment as an element of preventing and ending homelessness
(Some of) National Initiatives’ Resources

See all of our toolkits: [bit.ly/NItoolkits](bit.ly/NItoolkits)
WIOA Planning & Implementation Toolkit

Shows how you can help ensure WIOA increases employment & economic opportunity for jobseekers facing barriers, including homeless jobseekers.

See it all here: bit.ly/WIOAtoolkit

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NATIONAL INITIATIVES

#WIOAwebinar
Updates and re-orient the public workforce system to prioritize services for jobseekers facing barriers to employment, including homeless jobseekers.
WIOA: A Catalyst to Address the Employment Needs of Homeless Jobseekers

• Eliminates sequence of services.
• Changes performance measures.
• Includes Transitional Jobs.
• CBOs may sit on local Workforce Investment Boards (WIBS).
• WIOA plans must say how they will serve people facing barriers.
WIOA’s Definition of Homeless

Inclusive of adults, youth, and families who **might not be considered homeless under other definitions**. Includes people who are doubled up or living in a hotel or motel due to lack of alternative accommodations.
WIOA Implementation Goal #1: Leverage Data

- Make data gathering and analysis for homeless jobseekers a priority.
- Inform the process using field-specific knowledge and people’s lived experience.

Does my community have a good grasp on the scope, scale, and workforce needs of homeless jobseekers?
WIOA Implementation Goal #2: Align Resources & Strategies

• Bring a range of stakeholders to the process, including homeless jobseekers.

• Promote evidence-based and promising employment strategies for homeless jobseekers.

• Inform accurate service mapping.

Do my community’s available workforce services and supports for homeless jobseekers meet their needs?
WIOA Implementation Goal #3: Partner Effectively

How can combined state planning efforts benefit homeless jobseekers in my state?

- Promote and support combined state planning with HUD.
- More on this to come!

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WIOA Implementation Goal #4: Ensure Accountability & Evaluate Efforts

How can my community and state intentionally prioritize homeless jobseekers and maintain our focus over time?

- Advocate for plans that align strongly with the intent of the law.
- Weigh in on the development of new performance measures.
- Support and inform evaluation processes.
Toolkit Resource: “Systems Working Together to End Homelessness”

WIOA and HUD Combined State Planning can help bust silos (& coordinate systems).
Combined State Planning & Why it Matters

• States can choose to develop Combined State Plans with other partners, including HUD.

• Public systems are better at solving big problems when they work together.

• Employment is a growing priority for homeless service system.
WIOA and HUD Combined State Planning Can Benefit Homeless Jobseekers

- Implement evidence-based employment strategies.
- Improve referral processes between systems.
- Spur innovative system coordination ideas.
- Use existing resources and capacity more effectively.

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#WIOAwebinar
How to Support HUD and WIOA Combined State Planning

• Communicate what you know about homeless jobseekers.

• Identify evidence-based and innovative services.

• Urge that homeless jobseekers are a priority population.

• Inform new performance measures.

• Provide ongoing monitoring and support.
Toolkit Resource: Governor’s WIOA Discretionary Fund

WIOA allows governors to set aside 15 percent of funds to support state-funded projects, often innovative workforce initiatives.

MAXIMIZING DISCRETIONARY DOLLARS
How the Governor’s WIOA Discretionary Fund Can Serve Adults & Youth Facing Barriers to Employment

October 2015, Stakeholder Resource

The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) planning efforts are one way the public workforce system can design and expand pathways to employment and economic opportunity for economically unemployed adults and youth. The Governor’s WIOA Discretionary Fund can also be used to expand access to employment, training, education, and support services for adults and youth facing barriers to employment.

WIOA allows Governors to reserve some state funds to support state-funded projects. Historically, these funds have supported the implementation of career pathways, bridge programs, sector initiatives, and other innovative workforce approaches. As states develop strategies for ensuring that the WIOA system promotes access to employment, education, training, and support services for jobseekers facing barriers to employment. Governor discretion can be beneficial. For example, these resources can be used to implement initiatives that build on evidence-based and promising practices to serve jobseekers facing barriers through innovative strategies to serve populations that have historically left the workforce and who often benefit from additional opportunities to regain employment. This resource offers promising ways that states could leverage and use their discretionary funds for the benefit of adults and youth facing barriers to employment.

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WIOA PLANNING & IMPLEMENTATION TOOLKIT

#WIOAwebinar
Decision makers might need some persuading about the importance of investing in services for jobseekers facing barriers, especially in a time of scarce public resources.
Toolkit Resources: WIOA Boards and Plans

**FUNCTIONS OF STATE & LOCAL WORKFORCE INNOVATION & OPPORTUNITY ACT BOARDS**

*October 2015, Stakeholder Resource*

Under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) statute, state and local WIOA boards are required to perform several functions with regard to setting priorities for the public workforce system, governance, and allocating resources.

Here is a snapshot of the functions of state and local WIOA boards.

**ELEMENTS OF STATE & LOCAL WORKFORCE INNOVATION & OPPORTUNITY ACT PLANS**

*October 2015, Stakeholder Resource*

Under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) statute, state and local WIOA boards must develop and submit four-year strategic and operational plans to guide their implementation of WIOA.

Here is a snapshot of the items that must be included in local and state WIOA plans, including Combined State Plans.

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#WIOAwebinar
Toolkit Resource: **Community Asset Mapping**

Who’s being served, and where? These asset mapping questions can help **guide communities in assessing workforce services and supports available for homeless jobseekers.**
In addition to WIOA, there are many other sources of federal support for employment services for people with barriers to employment.
Speaker Contacts...& Stay In Touch!

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HOME & WORK CONNECTIONS
PROJECT
SEATTLE KING COUNTY PARTNERSHIP
KEY PARTNERSHIPS

• All Home (formerly Committee to End Homelessness)

• City of Seattle

• King County

• Seattle King County Workforce Development Council (oversight on WIOA)

• United Way

• Building Changes
SYSTEMS COORDINATION

WorkSource (American Job Center) System in Seattle King County is robust and King County is the Operator of the System in coordination with the local Workforce Development Council: (WIOA)

- 1 Center – Managed by King County

- 6 Affiliates

- 22 Connections sites
  - Many Connection sites focus on homeless job seekers
SYSTEM FUNDERS/FUNDING

Building Changes – Systems Innovation Grants
United Way – investments in Employment and Training providers in Seattle King County
City of Seattle – projects for homeless youth and adults
King County – Veterans and Human Services Levy funding for homeless employment
WDC – homeless employment funding/WIOA
SNAP E&T funding -
STRATEGIES

- Align homeless employment funding
- Landscape mapping of employment strategies
- Coordinate housing/employment entry for homeless families
- Utilize the WorkSource System as points of entry – integrate housing providers into service hubs (WIOA providers are in the hubs)
- Train WIOA providers on homeless employment strategies and providing support
- Align WIOA Business Team with Home&Work Business leaders task force
INTEGRATION/PARTNERSHIP EXAMPLES

• King County’s Homeless Employment Contractors are integrated with WIOA providers in the One-Stop. These teams work together to serve homeless job seekers.

• WIOA Business Team holds hiring events targeted at homeless job seekers (AMAZON).

• System Innovations Grant recipients are also WIOA providers.

• King County Operator team knits the WIOA system together with the broader system, including funders.
Questions?

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