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OVERVIEW OF WIOA WORKFORCE SERVICES

The specific programs and services offered by local workforce boards can differ. While core services are consistent across the country, some boards may develop unique programs or initiatives tailored to their region's needs. Likewise, the availability and sources of funding can vary. Some local boards may secure additional grants or resources to support specific programs or populations, while others rely primarily on federal WIOA funds. Outlined below are several core services that local workforce development boards are required to provide as part of their efforts to assist job seekers and employers under The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA).

1. Career Information and Guidance:

- Local workforce boards are required to provide career information and guidance to individuals seeking employment or training. This includes information about in-demand occupations, labor market trends, and education and training options.

2. Access to Job Listings and Labor Market Information:

- Workforce boards must offer access to job listings and labor market information, which helps job seekers identify job openings, understand job requirements, and make informed career choices.

3. Assessment of Skills and Needs:

- Local workforce boards must conduct assessments to determine the skills, abilities, and employment barriers of job seekers. These assessments help individuals identify suitable career paths and training needs.

4. Development of Individual Employment Plans:

- Based on the assessments, workforce boards are required to help job seekers develop individual employment plans (IEPs). These plans outline the steps needed to achieve their career goals, including training and supportive services.

5. Referral to Training and Education Programs:

- If individuals need additional skills or training to obtain employment, workforce boards must refer them to appropriate training and education programs, which may include adult education, vocational training, or apprenticeships.

6. Supportive Services:

- WIOA allows for the provision of supportive services to eligible individuals. These services can include assistance with transportation, childcare, housing, and other needs that may be barriers to employment or training.

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7. Job Search Assistance:

- Workforce boards are required to provide job search assistance, which may include assistance with resume writing, interview preparation, and job placement services.

8. Youth Services:

- WIOA includes provisions for youth workforce development programs. Local workforce boards must offer a range of services to assist eligible youth in preparing for and obtaining employment, including academic and occupational skills training.

9. Services for Disadvantaged Populations:

- Special attention is given to serving disadvantaged populations, such as veterans, individuals with disabilities, ex-offenders, and low-income individuals. Services should be tailored to meet the unique needs of these populations.

10. Employer Engagement:

- Workforce boards are encouraged to engage with local employers to understand their workforce needs and help match job seekers with available job opportunities. This includes facilitating on-the-job training and apprenticeship programs.

11. Access to Wagner-Peyser Employment Services:

- Local workforce boards are required to integrate Wagner-Peyser employment services, which include job placement and labor exchange services, into their overall service delivery system.

12. Follow-Up Services:

- WIOA mandates follow-up services to track the progress of participants after they are placed in employment or training programs to ensure their success and address any issues that may arise.

The specific services offered by local workforce boards may be further tailored to the needs of the community and the available resources. WIOA emphasizes the importance of a comprehensive and coordinated approach to workforce development to ensure that individuals receive the services they need to find and retain meaningful employment, and that employers have access to a skilled workforce.