



2009

## Proposed Federal Legislative Priorities

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### Second Economic Stimulus Legislation

- We support the proposed **Second Economic Stimulus Legislation** that includes the House-passed \$60 billion economic stimulus package with \$500 million in workforce funding.
- We also support the US Conference of Mayors **Main Street Stimulus** programs that will create jobs, improve the infrastructure that the private sector needs to succeed, help the small businesses of Main Street America, and have lasting economic and environmental benefits. The 10 programs are: Community Development Block Grants for Infrastructure, an Energy Block Grant for Infrastructure and Green Jobs, Transit Equipment and Infrastructure, Highway Infrastructure, Airport Technology and Infrastructure, Amtrak Infrastructure, Water and Wastewater Infrastructure, School Modernization, Public Housing Modernization and Public Safety Jobs and Technology.

### WIA Reauthorization

- We support a speedy reauthorization of WIA once the new administration is in place in order to ensure funding.
- We strongly support the US Conference of Mayors **Seven Principles for WIA Reauthorization**:
  1. **Business-Driven**- A successful business driven workforce development structure ensures a talent pipeline exists that is made up of properly educated, skilled, and prepared individuals available to meet employer needs in support of competitive local and regional economies.
  2. **Guided by Local Control**-With an overall business-driven focus to workforce development, a system that is guided by local institutions will allow for the development of programs that are informed by in-depth knowledge of the local business community, hiring and training needs of local and regional businesses, and the promotion of greater accountability as policies are designed to reflect local trends.
  3. **Funded to Reflect Its Importance**-Business demand for skilled workers in the U.S. economy is rapidly outpacing the supply within local labor markets throughout the country. This is negatively impacting our international economic competitiveness. In order for the U.S. to successfully address the shortage of skilled workers to meet business demands, **Congress must not only substantially increase its investment in workforce funding**, but it must ensure that funding supports programming that is designed to successfully prepare and train existing and new workers.



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**4. Driven by Appropriate Measures-**To ensure that local workforce strategies are successfully implemented, **appropriate measures and data systems must be developed** to accurately reflect local and regional service strategies, economies, and business metrics. By allowing for locally- and/or regionally-set measures and systems, workforce activities and services in each service area can be tailored to quality of life measurements for each community.

**5. Focused on Youth-**By 2010, the largest segment of the nation's labor force will be teens and young adults as 41 million new workers enter the workforce beginning to replace 76 million retiring workers. Only a significant reinvestment in all youth, but most especially those young people with low educational attainment and poor connections to work, will generate enough skilled, technologically savvy, and educated, U.S. workers to keep our nation competitive in the global economy.

**6. Built on Partnerships-**Since the initial implementation of WIA, local systems have built leveraged partnerships with multiple stakeholders. These partnerships have allowed local areas to bring more to the workforce system than required, strengthening the workforce system and providing comprehensive, cohesive services to jobseekers. **Development and support of these partnerships should be an integral part of WIA reauthorization.**

**7. One-Stop Career Centers as Critical Service Delivery Mechanism-**One-Stop Centers currently serve as the critical mechanism for workforce service delivery. These Centers are the successful, public service delivery arm of local workforce systems, providing direct job placement services to local jobseekers and engaging businesses to serve their hiring and training needs. Accordingly, **One-Stop Centers**, created through the original WIA legislation, **should remain as this service delivery mechanism** under new legislation.