WIOA Title II
& Immigrant Workers

Presentation to the AFL-CIO Worker Center Advisory Council
Workforce Development Workshop

June 23, 2015
Our Vision

We seek an America that grows its economy by investing in its people, so that every worker and every industry has the skills to compete and prosper.
Our Mission

- We **organize** broad-based coalitions seeking to raise the skills of America’s workers across a range of industries.

- We **advocate** for public policies that invest in what works, as informed by our members’ real-world expertise.

- And we **communicate** these goals to an American public seeking a vision for a strong U.S. economy that allows everyone to be part of its success.
Today’s Workshop

• **The big picture:** What Title II is and what it does

• **Hands-on examples:** How immigrants are served under WIOA

• **Key opportunities:** Where are the pressure points?

• **Strategic discussion:** Making your voice heard

**Plus: Your Questions**

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WIOA: What’s the Scale?

**Title I (workforce)**
- $2.62 billion in funding
- 8 million people served annually

**Title II (adult education)**
- $700 million in funding
- 1.6 million people served annually
  - ~700,000 Adult Basic Education
  - ~200,000 Adult Secondary Education (GED)
  - ~700,000 English Language instruction (ESL)
How Immigrants Fit into WIOA

- **Title I** - Workforce *(for work-authorized individuals)*

- **Title II** - Adult Education *(silent on immigration status)*
The Big Picture

What WIOA Title II is and what it does
A Closer Look: Title II Services

Includes:

• Adult Basic Education (grade level 1-8)

• Adult Secondary Education (GED, etc.)

• Integrated basic education and occupational training (“I-BEST” type models)

• English Language/Civics
## States Use Different Mechanisms to Distribute Title II Funds

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<td>Department of Labor</td>
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Need is Greater than Capacity

• Results from OECD’s international Survey of Adult Skills show that 36 million Americans ages 16-65 have low basic skills

• One-third (12 million) are immigrants
How Much Change Will WIOA Bring?

• In order to pass WIOA, could not make huge changes to old law

• Therefore, WIOA will not by itself drive systems change

• Creates lots of opportunities for change, but will need strong commitment from the field to capitalize on those opportunities

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What’s Different in WIOA

• Increases Title II adult education emphasis on workforce preparation and training

• Encourages tighter connection to Title I workforce services

• Emphasizes integrated basic education and occupational training (I-BEST-like models)
What’s Different in WIOA (cont’d)

- Career pathways
- Industry sector partnerships

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A Lingering Question for Immigrants

• Tension between differing eligibility requirements for Title I & Title II is unresolved

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The Bottom Line

• WIOA is more “May” than “Shall”

• Your creative innovation can help to spark opportunity for immigrants
An Activity

Imagining the possibilities
Hands-On Examples

How immigrants are currently served under WIOA
A Diversity of Models

- American Job Centers (“one-stops”)
- Community-based organizations
- Community colleges
- School districts
- Libraries
- More
Some Examples

• These focus on community-based organizations

• Creative approaches to blending funding across siloes

• Entrepreneurial, experimental approaches
Norris Square Community Alliance

- Low-income neighborhood
- Diverse Hispanic client population
- Successfully partnered with fellow CBO to provide on-site GED classes (WIOA Title II)
Lancaster-Lebanon IU

- Central Pennsylvania
- Multi-service organization including Title II adult education
- Cuban and other refugees
- Expanded to immigrant professionals
- Networks for Integrating New Americans initiative

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English for New Bostonians

- Blending foundation & public (Title II) support
- Close relationships to city and philanthropic leaders
- Unusual convener keeping track of city’s big-picture adult ESL needs across organizations
International Institute of St. Louis

- Refugee resettlement agency with broader focus
- Early recipient of WIOA Title I for immigrant & refugee employment services
- Certified Nurse Aide, other job training

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Friendly House

• Operating within tight legal constraints

• Created self-pay GED classes for DACA-eligible youth

• Once youth received DACA work permits, used Title I vouchers for occupational training
Key Opportunities

Where are the pressure points?
Get to the Planning Table

• Ensure that WIOA state & local plans fully document immigrant demographics and needs

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Support Informed Review Process

• Local workforce boards are mandated to review adult education proposals to ensure alignment with local WIOA plan

• Advocate for local boards to have appropriate expertise for evaluating proposals
Advocate for Existing Providers to Better Serve Immigrants

• Encourage WIOA adult education programs to support individuals who need GEDs to become DACA-eligible
Explore IET Opportunities

• Participate in the development of Integrated Education & Training programs

• Ensure that program design provides on-ramps for immigrant workers

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Foster Inclusive Youth Services

- New requirement that 75% of youth funds be spent on out-of-school youth ages 16-24

- Opportunity to advocate for attention to immigrant youth

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Consider Applying for WIOA Funds

- Review **funding constraints** and determine if your organization can work within them
- Use data to demonstrate your **proven ability** to serve immigrant jobseekers
Strategic Discussion

Making your voice heard
WIOA: Key Dates

- **June 15, 2015**: Public comments on draft regulations were due
- **January 22, 2016**: Final regulations published
- **March 3, 2016**: Unified state plans due
- **June 30, 2016**: Employer engagement measure due
Additional WIOA Resources

- NSC side-by-side
- NSC WIOA resource page
- DOL WIOA resource page (Title I)
- OCTAE WIOA resource page (Title II)
- OSERS WIOA resource page (Title IV)
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