

Understanding Local Workforce Investment Areas (LWIAs)



In 2014, Congress passed the *Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)*. This legislation sets aside funds for each state to invest in workforce development.



To ensure that all localities receive WIOA funds, Illinois is split into 22 regions called Local Workforce Investment Areas. Each LWIA receives a portion of the WIOA funds that IL receives each year.



LWIAs are governed by Local Workforce Investment Boards, which are made up of local elected officials as well as area business leaders. LWIBs are aided by additional frontline staff members.

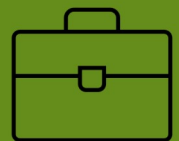
There are two primary categories of services that LWIAs provide using WIOA funds: Business Services and Services for Individuals. Regardless of category, funds can support training costs.



Individuals who are determined to be WIOA-eligible receive personalized case management and support services, as well as paid training opportunities or debt-free career-focused education.



WIOA Business Services include funding for employee upskilling, wage reimbursement for hiring WIOA participants, and zero cost opportunities to create a youth skills program/funded internship.



The Bottom Line:

Your LWIA is your local workforce development hub, here to help you and your organization thrive through innovative funding opportunities and rewarding partnerships with regional industry and public sector stakeholders.

Understanding LWIAs & Apprenticeships



Your LWIA can provide one-on-one consultations and support for developing and registering a DOL-recognized apprenticeship program for your business—all free of charge!



Apprenticeship Navigators, or Outreach and Development Specialists, are available to present to you and your team on apprenticeships in-person and remotely (subject to availability).

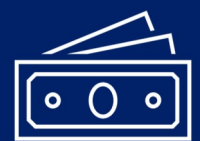


From initial consultation through program registration, Navigators help you every step of the way in customizing and building your program to ensure a hassle-free, streamlined process.

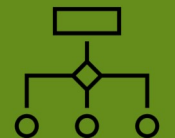
Strong existing partnerships between your LWIA and K-12 educators, local community colleges, and public officials ensure efficient and effective collaboration that meet your needs.



Developing a registered apprenticeship in partnership with your LWIA guarantees that you'll be connected to funding opportunities that can decrease costs and further incentivize retention!



If apprenticeship isn't the strategy you're looking to utilize for meeting your company's training needs, your LWIA can help connect you to a number of other innovative workforce solutions.



The Bottom Line:

Your LWIA and their Apprenticeship Navigator are experts on all things workforce development and can help you build an apprenticeship program from the ground up in no time at all; Set up a consultation with them today!

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