



# Reshaping America's Workforce Post-COVID: Local Workforce Boards as the Vehicle for Economic Recovery

The U.S. Conference of Mayors  
Workforce Development Council

*Advocacy & Policy Committee*

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# KEY POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

The following document outlines the U.S. Conference of Mayors Workforce Development Council's key policy recommendations for Congress and the Biden Administration to implement in the first 100 days to ensure a strong economic recovery for American businesses and workers.

## **1. Invest In the Nation's Workforce System**

Increase WIOA funding in an economic stimulus to \$15 billion as proposed in the bipartisan Relaunching America's Workforce Act (RAWA) and permanently increase WIOA funding.

## **2. Include Workforce Development Funding in Future Infrastructure Investments -**

Congress must leverage infrastructure investments across multiple federal agencies to expand access to multi-craft pre-apprenticeship and apprenticeship training that would offer dislocated workers and workers from underserved communities a pathway to a quality job.

**3. Extend Federal UI Benefits** - Congress must increase the weekly unemployment insurance bonus checks from the current \$300 a week to \$600 a week until March 2021.

**4. Remove Barriers to Service** - This crisis demands flexibility, innovation and agility to effectively respond to the new and ever-changing environment, and we must position the workforce system for success.

## **5. Integrate Service Delivery**

Many state agencies operate, and also provide oversight of local programs. This model does not work effectively and does not set the workforce development boards up for success as they are responsible for the overall integration of workforce investments at the local level, and in turn do not actually operate or run the programs. We need an increased level of accountability via the DOL, specific to program integration, to ensure an efficient response to the economic crisis.

## **6. Promote Flexibility/Support Innovation**

First and foremost, funding to provide additional training and resources to any individual affected by the pandemic should be flexible (similar to National Emergency Grant and Opioid Crisis funding) where workforce officials have the ability to make a significant impact with whole families and their ability to respond to the crisis.

## **7. Adjust Performance Measures to Reflect Realities of Pandemic**

Performance measures that were set for the workforce system in authorizing legislation must now be considered through the lens of pandemic impact. Metrics to evaluate whether goals are met and to establish necessary course corrections in programming and administration are important, but they simply must be adapted to current circumstances.



**THE U.S. CONFERENCE OF MAYORS  
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL**

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