



## WORKFORCE INVESTMENT ACT (WIA) REAUTHORIZATION

Subcommittee: Labor, Health and Human Services (HHS), Education

**Request:** Reauthorize WIA to maintain strong local flexibility for cities and local Workforce Investment Boards and ensure that local and regional employer needs are met.

Ensure that the One-Stop System is demand-driven, responsive and reflective of local workforce needs.

Provide ample funding and authority to support One-Stop System infrastructure that will sustain and maintain the needs of the local economy and workforce through a responsive and demand-driven system.

### Community Value:

The city of Phoenix believes any reauthorization proposals calling for consolidation of dislocated workers, adult and Wagner-Peyser programs into a single block grant or consolidated funding stream would weaken local authority and decrease overall funding to local areas. While consolidated funding streams may result in some administrative efficiency, they will likely diminish the role of local boards. Local business-led boards have a greater opportunity to influence policy decisions that promote the needs of local and regional businesses and improve the quality of the local workforce.

### Background:

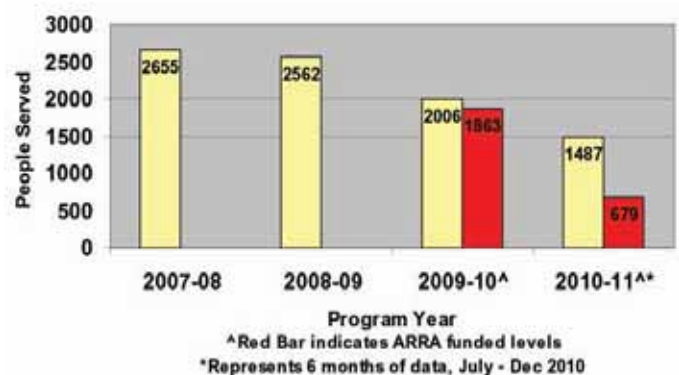
Phoenix Workforce Connection (PWC) recommends that the operational costs of the One-Stop System be financed through dedicated "One-Stop infrastructure" funding. Comparing program years 2008 and 2009, the number of customers visiting PWC One-Stop Centers remained consistently high. The highest year was 2008, and there was only a 2.2 percent decrease in 2009. The average number of customers per month remained above 15,000 for the second consecutive year. Customers using self-help and core services for their job search efforts create significant demand on resource center equipment (computers, copiers, printers, etc.). The WIA program funds finance the maintenance and upkeep of 50 percent of One-Stop Center equipment, thus reducing funds available for direct services. The purchase of new equipment is not possible with existing resources without impacting the One-Stop System's ability to continue meeting business needs.

The current system requires flexibility and adjustments to respond to the workforce challenges brought on by rising unemployment and the increasingly competitive global economy.

The local workforce system should remain the primary engine for providing workforce solutions for business and individuals sustaining a skilled and talented pipeline. Reductions in funding levels to the Phoenix Workforce Connection system will:

- Adversely impact the number of customers receiving services;
- Adversely impact the ability to meet the increased need for support services for customers;
- Jeopardize the number of One-Stop Center sites currently operated with WIA funds;
- Jeopardize the services provided to businesses;
- Jeopardize a One-Stop System's ability to increase training in high-wage, high-demand occupations;
- Further reduce the ability to maintain equipment for self-service customers; and
- Significantly reduce the overall amount and scope of services provided to businesses and individuals through the One-Stop System.

Phoenix Workforce Connection  
Service Levels



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