

# Economic Development



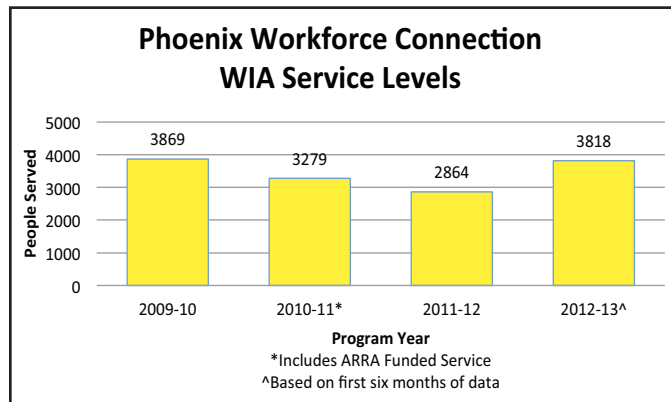
## WORKFORCE INVESTMENT ACT (WIA) REAUTHORIZATION

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

Provide adequate funding and authority to support a 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:

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 workforce. The city of Phoenix is concerned that 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.



### Background:

**Importance:** The workforce system serves as a resource to ensure individuals, groups and businesses are given access to information, services and networks that ultimately support local, regional and statewide economic growth and vitality. The workforce system provides access to services that support education attainment, career and job preparation and development to meet stated business and industry demands for a qualified and skilled workforce across all industry sectors.

**Integration:** The workforce system is designed to streamline and make the best use of relationships and resources of designated partners in support of local, regional and statewide strategies and initiatives. The focus is to bring together partners to develop and strengthen system capacity to meet demand-

driven needs of employers, while also creating innovative practices that sustain the community's economic growth.

**Impact:** A flexible and purposefully aligned workforce system designed to respond to workforce challenges brought on by rising unemployment and the increasingly competitive global economy is critical to the economic recovery of this nation. Innovative practices allow the WIA program to continue to develop stronger linkages with the business community. The local workforce system should remain the primary engine for providing workforce solutions for businesses and individuals that sustain a skilled and talented pipeline.

The following highlights impact to businesses and individuals during Program Year 2011 (July 1, 2011 - June 30, 2012):

- Provided 111 screening and recruitment/job fair events for companies such as Gap Inc. Direct, United Health Care, Amazon, Winco Foods, Revana (Teletch), Palomar Hotel and Sprouts.
- More than 1,200 youth and adults received occupational training and credentials in fields such as advanced business services, health care/bioscience, manufacturing, information technology and sustainable and renewable energy.
- Offered more than 750 employability/job readiness workshop sessions to more than 8,000 attendees on topics such as résumé development, social media, interviewing skills, computer literacy, WorkKeys assessments, etc.

Properly authorizing and adequately funding the WIA will alleviate the following adverse impacts:

- Significant reductions to the overall amount and scope of services provided to businesses and individuals through the One-Stop System.
- Reduction in the number of customers receiving education and career development services.
- Reduction in the ability to maintain equipment for self-service customers.

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