

July 22, 2014



## **The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Becomes Law; CLASP Looks toward Implementation**

*This email was sent out to KYAE listserv.*

Please review the information below.

As details about it become available (i.e., state plan development and implementation), we will provide additional info.

### **Reecie D. Stagnolia**

Vice President for Adult Education  
Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education  
1024 Capital Center Dr, Suite 250  
Frankfort, KY 40601  
Office: 502-573-5114, x124  
Cell: 859-421-5251  
[reecie.stagnolia@ky.gov](mailto:reecie.stagnolia@ky.gov)  
[twitter@kyaereecie](https://twitter.com/kyaereecie)  
[www.kyae.ky.gov](http://www.kyae.ky.gov)

## **The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Becomes Law; CLASP Looks toward Implementation**

On Tuesday, July 22, President Obama will sign into law the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), enacted by large bipartisan majorities in both the House and the Senate, after 11 years of debate to reauthorize the Workforce Investment Act of 1998. The White House is also releasing its [Ready to Work: Job-Driven Training and American Opportunity plan](#) to expand pathways to the middle class. The plan includes expanding many effective strategies CLASP has promoted that better prepare disadvantaged adults and youth to be successful in the workplace.

At a time of sustained unemployment in many communities, the programs in WIOA are designed to help young people and adult workers prepare for work or further education, find jobs, and build the skills employers need. We applaud Congress for acting with near unanimity in taking this important step to create a workforce development system that better enables states and communities to connect low-income youth and adults to

employment and training opportunities that lead to economic prosperity for themselves and their families. And we thank President Obama for moving so quickly to enact this law.

CLASP will be releasing a detailed analysis of WIOA's implications for low-income and low-skilled youth and adults in the coming weeks. We also anticipate working closely with leaders and advocates in states and local communities over the coming year to support the implementation and expansion of workforce systems, policies, and practices that are grounded in research and experience and improve the education and employability of low-income people. In addition, we will work to ensure that newly designed regulations fully implement the bill's focus on serving America's most vulnerable workers.

While the passage of WIOA is an historical and significant event, a key next step will be to increase the capacity of the workforce development and adult education systems to achieve the goals of WIOA. Congress should strengthen its commitment to the nation's workers by providing adequate resources to ensure that improved services reach those who need them.

Leading up to WIOA's implementation date of July 2015, the Departments of Education and Labor will be developing regulations and guidance for states and local communities on how to implement the new law. CLASP commends Congress and the Congressional staffers who worked on this important bill and we look forward to working with federal officials, states and local communities to strengthen existing programs and take advantage of the opportunities set forth in the bill to better serve low-income and low-skilled workers.

[Read more>>](#)

[Watch the live stream signing of WIOA by President Obama at 12 PM EDT.](#)

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