

THE WORKFORCE INFRASTRUCTURE FOR SKILLED EMPLOYEES (WISE) INVESTMENT ACT

– SUMMARY SHEET –

Goal: To address the “skills gap” in local communities by reinforcing workforce investment boards with a small & local business liaison dedicated to conducting an in-depth analysis of local business needs and applying that analysis to workforce investment efforts.

H.R. 5975, the WISE Investment Act establishes a pilot program under the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) to provide resources to eligible recipients so they can work with local businesses to identify skill gaps, and prepare a **strategic skills gap assessment** and a **strategic skills gap action plan** to propose a remedy for the identified gaps.

Who is eligible to receive a grant under the pilot program?

- Workforce investment boards
- Community colleges
- Postsecondary vocational institutions

What is a strategic skills gap assessment?

The assessment is a comprehensive study, compiled through the liaison outreach activities, that identifies any gaps between current and expected demand and supply of labor and skills. Specifically, the assessment will include:

- Employment opportunities and the skills desired for those employment opportunities;
- Occupations and positions in the local area that are difficult to fill and the skills desired for those difficult to fill positions;
- Areas of growth and decline among industries and occupations in the local area or region and the skills desired for areas of growth; and,
- Specific inventories of skills of unemployed or underemployed individuals in the local area or region.

What is a strategic skills gap action plan?

The action plan builds on the assessment by providing a road map for addressing gaps identified throughout the outreach and assessment process. The action plan will include:

- Specific barriers to adequate supply of labor and skills in demand in an industry sector or related occupations that is producing jobs in the local area or region;
- Activities that will remove or alleviate those barriers that could be taken by the grant recipient.
- Recommendations about how the grant recipient can implement those activities; and,
- Other possible resources or strategies to address the identified gaps.