



WHAT: A “Workforce Day of Action”

WHO: Organizations Who Support Strengthening – *Not Eliminating* – U.S. Workforce Development Efforts

WHEN: Thursday, March 24, 2011

WHERE: Your Members of Congress In-District Offices

WHY:

- Workforce development programs are an important part of the nation’s economic recovery and job creation effort—working with employers to train workers for existing and emerging high-demand jobs. If federal investments in these programs are eliminated, the impact will be devastating to our fragile economy as it is still slowly getting back on its feet.
- Nearly 14 million Americans remain unemployed as of February, with over 40 percent unemployed for 6 months and longer.
- Many are unable to return to their prior jobs because those occupations no longer exist; these workers and many others lack the skills and credentials needed for today’s 21st-century economy.
- This past year, the U.S. Workforce Investment (WIA) system served over **8.4 million jobseekers**; helped over **4.3 million get jobs**; and placed **hundreds of thousands** into education and training to prepare them for new careers.
- WIA **participation rates increased 234 percent** over the past two years despite funding remaining stagnant at 2008 levels.
- Yet the **House Fiscal Year 2011 Continuing Appropriations bill, HR 1, zeroes out all funding for WIA Adult, Dislocated Worker, and Youth** state and local employment and training programs, a cut of over \$3.6 billion for the coming year (beginning this July).



Wider Opportunities for Women

WorkforceInvestment Works
WORKING FOR AMERICA



Workforce Strategies Initiative
at the Aspen Institute

- Other programs targeted for deep cuts or elimination include **Perkins Career and Technical Education, YouthBuild, Job Corps, green jobs training, reintegration of ex-offenders, and Community Service Employment for Older Americans.**
- If enacted, these cuts will result in:
 - ▶ Closing of 3000 One-Stop Centers and turning away millions of jobseekers in need of career guidance, training and employment services.
 - ▶ At a time when nearly one in five youth and young adults age 16-24 are unemployed, more than 7,000 young people will lose access to services under YouthBuild; 10,000 more will lose access to services under Job Corps; and 276,000 youth will lose access to employment, education, training, and work experiences under WIA youth programs.
 - ▶ Over 14 million students enrolled in school-based career and technical education programs supported by Perkins will see services and opportunities cut or even eliminated, and program quality diminished.
 - ▶ As many as 50,000 low-income seniors will be denied part-time community-service jobs under the elimination of the CSEOA program.
 - ▶ And veterans who receive priority services under WIA will have to find other sites to get the help they need to successfully transition into civilian jobs.

Now is not the time to eliminate the nation's primary system for getting people back to work.

We stand united in support of adequate funding for these programs and oppose in the strongest possible terms, any cuts, much less the elimination of funding for workforce development and related programs in this and future appropriations measures.

**IMPACT OF WORKFORCE INVESTMENT ACT FUNDING CUTS UNDER H.R. 1
TO SOUTH CENTRAL KANSAS**

PREPARED BY KEITH LAWING, WORKFORCE ALLIANCE

MARCH 17, 2011

What is the issue?

The House of Representatives recently passed H.R. 1 Fiscal Year 2011 Continuing Resolution which reduces the current fiscal year budget in many federal programs including the Workforce Investment Act (WIA). The cuts to WIA are significant and would have a very negative impact on the operations of the Workforce Alliance of South Central Kansas, along with job seekers and employers in this region.

What is the impact to the region/state?

- Under H.R. 1, funding for the Adult, Dislocated Worker, and Youth formula grants for Program Year 2011 (July 1, 2011-June 30, 2012) will be zeroed out.
- WIA national discretionary grants, Dislocated Worker Reserve, and Emergency Grant funding is either eliminated or rescinded, which could impact the National Emergency Grant (NEG) awarded to the region in 2010.
- If this budget is approved the Workforce Alliance will not receive any new funding for services to Adults and Dislocated Workers until July 1, 2012, and will essentially cease operating these programs.
- Based on our internal analysis, if H.R. 1 was adopted Kansas would lose between \$17 to \$26 million in WIA funding.

How will H.R. 1 affect current status of WIA in this region?

- Current program year (July 1, 2010 – June 30, 2011): The Workforce Alliance has almost completely accrued / obligated its fiscal authority in WIA Adult, Dislocated Worker and National Emergency Grant programs and is not in a position to carry over funds into the upcoming program year.
- There would be no additional funds to support approximately 500 of the individuals now in WIA funded training programs scheduled to continue after July 1, 2011.
- The Workforce Alliance would not be able to enroll any new Adults or Dislocated Workers in training programs until July 1, 2012.
- In addition to training services, the Workforce Alliance would be forced to either close down or drastically reduce services from the One-Stop Workforce Centers in Wichita, El Dorado, Wellington and Winfield; likely resulting in lay-offs to staff.
- If these funding cuts are enacted it would effectively end WIA and the Workforce Centers in South Central Kansas as a job training and employment resource at a time when the aviation industry and other businesses are emerging from the recent economic downturn and need skilled workers.

What have we done in the past?

- Since July 1, 2007, almost \$4.8 million of WIA and NEG funds have been invested directly in training and supportive services to assist job seekers in preparing for high skilled jobs in the region. (*\$1.6 million has been invested in training students at the National Center for Aviation Training.*)
- In 2010, *over 92,000 job seekers and more than 400 employers were served in the Workforce Centers of South Central Kansas.*

Who else can provide the service?

There is no other existing employment assistance system currently in place to handle the volume of employers and job seekers that use services from the One-Stop Workforce Centers in South Central Kansas.

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