

<p>WIOA Task Force/Subcommittee <i>(Fill in the name of your subcommittee or task force)</i></p>	<p><i>Technology and Access Task Force</i></p>
<p>Recommendation <i>(State the recommendation you are asking the Steering Committee to consider and adopt)</i></p>	<p>The Technology and Accessibility Task Force recommends:</p> <p>Section 1.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) The state Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board (Board) shall form a standing committee to examine accessibility issues across the state’s workforce development system. The committee shall be called the state “Access and Barrier Solutions Advisory Committee” (ABSAC). (2) The state ABSAC shall provide a forum for sharing best practices and developing statewide guidance on improving accessibility throughout the workforce development system, advocate for resources to make recommended systemic changes, and to assist local WDCs in recruiting effective members to local ABSACs. The state ABSAC shall have the ability to report to the Board at regularly scheduled meetings and to advise the Board on issues related to access for populations with barriers at one-stop centers and will advise the full Board on strategies to improve accessibility and generate better outcomes among populations with barriers. (3) The state ABSAC shall be consulted in the development of the state technology plan for workforce development and any elements of the state strategic plan(s) for workforce development that address accessibility issues. (4) The state Board chair shall designate the ABSAC chair and members of the committee. Members of the state ABSAC should consist of experts in access issues for populations with barriers, drawn from agency and system partners. <p>Section 2.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Each WDC shall establish a standing local ABSAC that advises the local board on issues related to access issues at one-stop centers, including but not limited to accessibility issues for people with disabilities. The local ABSAC shall utilize data gathered by the WDCs on populations with barriers and will make recommendations on how to improve services, remove barriers in the system, and develop universal access solutions for all. (2) Each WDC may establish procedures for designating a local ABSAC chair, as well as the length of term of service for local ABSAC members. The membership of the local ABSAC should consist of representatives of community and agency partner programs that serve people with potential access barriers, reflecting the broad spectrum of local communities served by the WDC. The membership shall include, but is not limited to, members representing the following constituencies or programs serving those constituencies: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. People with physical disabilities;

- b. People with sensory disabilities (blind and low-vision, deaf and hard of hearing);
- c. People with behavior or mental health disabilities;
- d. People with cognitive disabilities;
- e. Economically disadvantaged communities;
- f. English Language Acquisition (ELA) or bilingual communities;
- g. Disadvantaged youth;
- h. Long-term unemployed;
- i. Community college disability specialists; and
- j. A representative from a certified one-stop in the local area.

(3) Recertification of a local WDC is not contingent upon seating all the members listed in Section 2(2) on the local ABSAC. In the event a local WDC has difficulty recruiting members listed in Section 2(2), they may request assistance from the state ABSAC in identifying and recruiting potential members.

(4) The local ABSAC shall have the ability to report to the WDC at regularly scheduled meetings of the local Board and to advise the Board on issues related to access for populations with barriers.

(5) The local ABSAC shall produce an annual report to their WDC Board outlining and discussing:

- a. Issues, accomplishments, and deliverables as they relate to the WDC's strategic plan;
- b. Concerns and challenges faced by populations with access barriers, as seen from the advisory committee's perspective;
- c. A work-plan containing recommendations for improving accessibility in the coming year; and
- d. A progress report on recommendations for improving accessibility that have been previously issued by the local ABSAC.

Section 3. The local ABSAC shall submit their report on an annual basis to the state ABSAC, on a timeline to be designated by the state ABSAC. The state ABSAC shall examine the local ABSAC reports and incorporate the findings and strategies within into the ongoing development of statewide strategies to improve access.

Section 4. At the time of certification, the state Board and state ABSAC shall inquire about the progress local WDCs have made to establish a local ABSAC pursuant to Section 2 above. The Board shall ask whether local WDCs have begun the process of establishing a local ABSAC; whether the WDC has a recruitment strategy in place to recruit the members listed in Section 2(2); and whether the local WDC would like additional assistance from the state ABSAC in recruiting members to the local ABSAC.

<p>Background <i>(Please provide the background information that was considered and the action leading to this recommendation and the problem or issue solved.)</i></p>	<p>WIOA reenacts and strengthens the non-discrimination requirements of WIA’s Section 188 and requires one-stop career centers to provide physical and programmatic accessibility to individuals with disabilities. WIOA allows local area boards to establish standing committees to work on issues specifically faced by individuals with disabilities, including Section 188 and ADA compliance, ensuring equal programmatic and physical access to services, and appropriation staff training on providing services for, accommodations to, and finding employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities. However, WIOA does not affirmatively require local areas to create these standing advisory committees.</p> <p>Although WIOA only specifically calls out standing committees focusing on access issues for people with disabilities, the task force has embraced a more expansive goal of improving access for populations with a wide variety of barriers to access, including economic barriers, geographic barriers, physical barriers, and mental and behavior health barriers. A standing Workforce Board committee on accessibility issues would help build consensus on strategies to make systemic improvements to the system, informed by local advisory committees that assess accessibility issues at the ground-level, could improve the service experience for populations with barriers and will help local area boards prioritize projects and track progress towards improved customer service for those populations. The state standing committee will additionally service as a forum for sharing best practices and strategies to improve access, and as an advocate for resources and policy development that will improve services for all populations with barriers.</p>
<p>Who was engaged in this process? <i>(Please provide a list of subcommittee or task force members and who they represent)</i></p>	
<p>What, if any, is the minority recommendation? <i>(If the committee could not reach consensus on a majority recommendation, what was the alternative under consideration?)</i></p>	
<p>Are there any unresolved issues? <i>(Please let the Steering Committee know about any unresolved issues around this recommendation.)</i></p>	