

## Task Force Recommendations

**ISSUE:** The issue before the task force was whether local area boards should be required to form a standing committee on access issues faced by all populations with barriers, a broader focus than just on access issues faced by people with disabilities. Such a standing committee would produce an annual report with recommendations to improve access to one-stop services.

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

**Section 1.** The task force recommends that the following new responsibilities be adopted as additional certification requirements for workforce development councils (WDCs):

1. All WDCs must establish a standing Workforce Barriers and Access Advisory Committee (Advisory Committee) 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.
2. The membership of the Advisory Committee should consist of representatives of community and agency partner programs that serve people with potential access barriers, reflecting the broad spectrum of local communities being served by the WDC. The membership shall include, but is not limited to, members representing the following constituencies or programs serving those constituencies:
  - a. People with Disabilities;
  - b. Economically disadvantaged communities;
  - c. English Language Acquisition (ELA) or bilingual communities;
  - d. Disadvantaged youth;
  - e. Long-term unemployed; and
  - f. Community college disability specialists.
3. Each WDC may establish procedures for designating an Advisory Committee chair, as well as the length of term of service for Advisory Committee members.
4. The Advisory Committee shall have the ability to report to the WDC at regularly scheduled meetings of the Board and to advise the Board on issues related to access issues at one-stop centers.

5. The Advisory Committee 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 Advisory Committee.

**Section 2.** Before recommending the certification of a local area board, the Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board shall ensure that a WDC has chartered an Advisory Committee and included it in the organizational makeup of the WDC, and that the WDC has appointed membership to the Advisory Committee in accordance with Section 1(2) above.

**POTENTIAL/PERCEIVED CHANGES UNDER WIOA:** 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.

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.

**MINORITY POSITION(S):**

**STAKEHOLDERS ENGAGED:**

**ANY ISSUES, QUESTIONS, GUIDANCE NEEDED TO INFORM THE STEERING COMMITTEE:**

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