

FACT SHEET

Workforce Investment Act

As a result of the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) of 1998, the federal government provides funding to states to provide job training, education and employment services for unemployed workers. Most of these services are provided through a network of "One-Stop Centers." One-Stops provide free job training and other employment services to people looking for work. They match job seekers with businesses looking to hire workers, and help laid-off workers learn new skills and find new jobs.

The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services administers more than \$200 million in WIA funding each year, most of which is allocated to the One-Stop Centers. ODJFS supervises the One-Stops, but they are managed locally by 20 workforce investment boards, which establish local workforce policies.

Ohio has 31 comprehensive, full-service One-Stop sites and 59 satellite sites with at least one site in every Ohio county. You can find the One-Stop Center closest to you at <http://jfs.ohio.gov/owd/wia/wiamap.stm>.

WIA programs are designed to increase the employment, employment retention and earnings of adults, "dislocated workers" (those who have lost jobs and are unlikely to return to their previous occupations) and young workers (ages 14 to 21). They do this by increasing their work readiness, educational attainment and occupational skills, and by connecting them to jobs in industries with the greatest demand for workers. Three levels of service are available:

- **Core services** – Available to all job seekers, core services include job search and placement assistance, as well as access to labor market information showing such things as wage information and careers expected to be in the highest demand.
- **Intensive services** - Intensive services include more comprehensive skills assessments, development of individual employment plans, counseling and career planning.
- **Training services** - Training services include both occupational training and training in basic skills. Those who participate in WIA training programs are linked to job opportunities in their communities. Typically, they use an Individual Training Account (ITA) to select an appropriate training program from a qualified training provider, or they participate in training supported by an employer.

In addition, under certain circumstances, supportive services – such as transportation, child care, uniforms for employment or supplies for training – are provided so that individuals can participate in a program.

To learn more about WIA programs, go to <http://jfs.ohio.gov/owd/wia/>.