



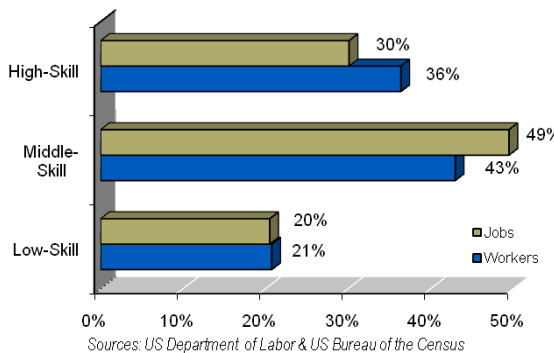
We must reauthorize WIA now

Better Skills • Better Jobs

The Workforce Investment Act of 1998 was designed to address the needs of a very different economic environment. The late 1990's saw robust labor markets and a good match between the skills of workers and the needs of companies. Today we face a "new normal" where high rates of long-term unemployment are the norm, even as industries recover. Here are the facts:

Fact: even with high unemployment we do not have enough skilled workers to fill the 49% of jobs that require more than high-school but less than a four-year degree.

Oregon Jobs and Workers by Skill Level, 2007



Fact: WorkSource Oregon Centers completed more than 360,000 assessments of adults seeking jobs. They found that 45% of job seekers had a skills gap in math and 34% in reading. These adults would only be able to qualify for up to 35% of the job openings in Oregon's economy, at best.

Fact: More than 60% of the workforce of 2020 is already working. We must develop a flexible, robust menu of services to assure that these working learners can get the education they need to advance in careers and help their companies.

It's time for a new Workforce Investment Act to meet today's needs!

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What is working...

- Local Workforce Boards working closely with industry to guide investments into training and tailor programs.
- A greater focus on skill building despite the Workforce Investment Act.
- Locally designed solutions.

What we need more of..

- On-The-Job Training to help people learn and earn and help companies cover the cost of training new employees.
- A youth employment program. Youth who cannot get jobs in their teen years, never catch up, creating a permanent underclass.
- Basic skills training. We are only beginning to realize the significance of this issue.
- Support for the continued coordinating work of Local Workforce Investment Boards .
- Expansion of the role of the Local Workforce Investment Boards to align investments into training based on the needs of the local businesses and the economy.