

The Workforce Recovery and Training Services Act of 2020

The Workforce Recovery and Training Services Act of 2020 (WRTSA), facilitates access to employment and training services by expanding online learning, assisting with the purchase of technology, supplies and training materials at the local levels. WRTSA provides eligibility to any adult or dislocated worker to receive services authorized under this Act. WRTSA provides funds to States using the existing dislocated worker formula under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA). This act authorizes \$3,500,000,000 for fiscal years 2020 through 2022.

What it does:

- Requires Governors to reserve 40% of funds, at least half of which must be used as additional support for communities most impacted by COVID-19.
- The remainder may be used to: support rapid response activities; facilitate remote access to employment and training services; expand online learning providers; assist with the purchase of technology, supplies and training materials for use at the local level; and provide technical assistance to local workforce boards
- Requires Governors to allocate 60% of funds directly to local areas which must be used for providing:
 - In person and virtual training services aligned with industry needs, including: on-the-job training; customized training; incumbent working training; and incentives for employers to hire individuals to transitional jobs in which employers provide workers with training leading to permanent employment
 - Individual Training Accounts (ITA) to enable adults and dislocated workers to obtain training from a provider identified by State or local workforce board
 - Short-term training for current employees to provide skills necessary to be hired permanently or retained, or to advance the individual's career
 - Short-term training for fields with shortages of workers in industries such as: healthcare, direct care, and frontline workers
- Enables any adult or dislocated worker to receive services authorized under this Act, with additional requirements for those receiving training services through an individual training account consistent with WIOA.
- Funds may be used to expand private public partnerships to support online training programs
- Funds may be used to provide access to technology, including broadband service and devices to enable individuals to receive online career and training services
- Requires local workforce boards to return unobligated funds within 1 year for funds to be reallocated to areas in need of additional funding
- Allows Governors, in partnership with local workforce boards and chief elected officials to conduct oversight and ensure appropriate use of funds
- Allows the Secretary of Labor to maintain \$15m for program administration
- Requires States to send a report to Congress on the outcomes under WIOA