

# West Virginia Workforce Development System



## What is West Virginia's State Workforce Development Board?

### Goals and Strategies

West Virginia's Workforce Development Board is the Governor's agent for the development, oversight, and continuous improvement of West Virginia's workforce development system. Members collaborate to provide state-level coordination and integration of federal and state workforce development policies and strategies with a goal of creating a more career-driven service delivery system.

Strategic planning goals for 2024-2027 are:

- ✔ Expand and implement high-quality work-based learning opportunities for youth and adult learners.
- ✔ Increase referrals and integration of support services to improve access to supportive services for individuals needing education and employment.
- ✔ Implement comprehensive sector strategy approach to reduce skills mismatches and enhance faster labor market attachment while informing education and training priorities.
- ✔ Implement a franchise model of workforce service delivery to increase the efficiency of service delivery and effectiveness in serving businesses, workers, and job seekers.

## What is WorkForce WV?

WorkForce WV is West Virginia's State Workforce Agency (SWA). A primary focus for WorkForce WV is fostering connections between employers and job seekers to enhance the state's workforce. At the core of its functions, WorkForce WV facilitates employment services, including job placement, career counseling, and training initiatives, with the goal of effectively linking job seekers with suitable opportunities in the labor market. In addition to supporting individuals in their pursuit of employment, the agency actively collaborates with employers to assist in recruitment efforts, offering valuable information on labor laws, and engaging in workforce-related programs that benefit businesses.

While playing a crucial role in connecting individuals with employment opportunities, WorkForce WV also manages the state's unemployment insurance program, providing temporary financial assistance to those who have lost their jobs. This dual function positions the agency as a key intermediary between job seekers and employers, contributing to the overall development of a skilled and adaptable workforce.



## Partnerships

Through the WorkForce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), West Virginia's **State Workforce Development Board** partners with a variety of agencies and service providers. These partners assist individuals who are veterans, low-income, disabled, or are looking to improve their education.

### What are the Local Workforce Development Boards?

A local workforce development region, comprising its own local workforce development board, is a community-focused initiative designed to enhance economic growth and individual employment opportunities within a specific geographic area. This region serves as a hub for various workforce development programs, aiming to align the skills of the local workforce with the needs of employers. Through collaborative efforts involving businesses, educational institutions, and government agencies, these regions provide training, education, and support services to empower individuals in acquiring the skills needed for available jobs.



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### **West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission**

West Virginia's four-year public higher education system includes 12 campuses that offer vast opportunities for a high-quality education at an affordable cost. Together with these institutions, the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission has embarked upon a five-year statewide master plan, *Leading the Way: Access. Success. Impact.* that builds on recent progress and sets forth bold aspirations for higher education in the state – and a means to achieve them.

### **West Virginia Community and Technical Colleges**

The mission of the Community and Technical College System of West Virginia is to promote and provide high-quality, accessible, and responsive education and training opportunities that maximize student learning, improve the standard of living for West Virginians, and contribute to the economic vitality and competitiveness of our state.

### **West Virginia Schools of Diversion and Transition**

The WVSDT provides educational services to over 6,000 juveniles and adults in residential and other state-operated facilities.

### **Jobs & Hope West Virginia**

Jobs & Hope West Virginia is the state's comprehensive response to the substance use disorder crisis. Established by Governor Jim Justice and the West Virginia Legislature, this program offers support through a statewide collaboration of agencies that provide West Virginians in recovery the opportunity to obtain career training and to ultimately secure meaningful employment.

### **Community Service Block Grants**

To provide resources and support for a community of partners working to improve the lives of West Virginians.

### **Adult Education and Literacy Services**

To enable adult workers to be literate, productive, and successful in the workplace, home, and community by delivering responsive adult education programs and services.

### **Vocational Rehabilitation Services**

The West Virginia Division of Rehabilitation Services (DRS) helps people with disabilities establish and reach their vocational goals. The primary goal for all DRS clients is to become productive working citizens.

#### **Other Incentives West Virginia Provides to Employers**

No Wrong Door West Virginia:

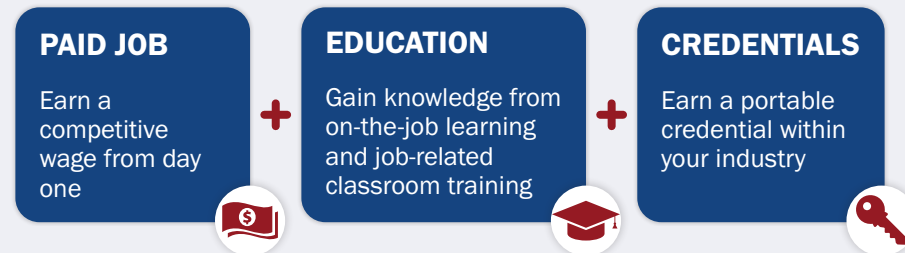
<https://nowrongdoor.wv.gov/employer-resources/>

## Apprenticeships in Motion

The Apprenticeship In Motion (AIM) program promotes and expands registered, nontraditional apprenticeship activity in the Mountain State. This collaborative group of partners identifies, standardizes and develops courses that are needed statewide in order to increase and improve the registered apprenticeship programs within West Virginia.

Nationwide, apprenticeship numbers have grown 68% since 2013 with more than 633,000 participating employees in 2019. Over 1,000 different occupations can be registered apprenticeships in the United States.

Apprenticeship is an industry-driven, high-quality career pathway where employers can develop and prepare their future workforce, and individuals can obtain paid work experience, classroom instruction, and a portable, nationally-recognized credential.



## Career and Technical Education

Career Technical Education (CTE) programs are changing, evolving and innovating to better serve West Virginia's needs by preparing students to help drive our success and vitality. Further, CTE is creating an educational environment that integrates core academics with real-world relevance. CTE is transforming expectations and making a difference for students, for businesses and industry, for West Virginia and for the global community.



## Wrap-Around Services

**Career One Stop** – A Career One Stop is a practical, in-person accessible resource that serves as a centralized hub for individuals seeking career-related assistance. It offers easy access to job search tools, resume help, local training programs, and educational information, streamlining the process for those exploring careers or in need of support for their job search.

**HUD Employment and Training Programs** – HUD's mission is to create strong, sustainable, inclusive communities and quality affordable homes for all. HUD is working to strengthen the housing market to bolster the economy and protect consumers; meet the need for quality affordable rental homes; utilize housing as a platform for improving quality of life; build inclusive and sustainable communities free from discrimination and transform the way HUD does business.

**Job Corps** – Job Corps is a free education and training program that helps young people learn a career, earn a high school diploma or GED, and find and keep a good job. For eligible young people at least 16 years of age that qualify as low income, Job Corps provides the all-around skills needed to succeed in a career and in life.

**National Farmworker Jobs Program** – The National Farmworker Jobs Program (NFJP) provides eligible farmworkers and their dependents with the means to reach self-sufficiency through better employment.

**Native American Programs** – Our purpose is to reduce unemployment among American Indians, traditionally the least serviced and poorest group in the United States.

**Senior Community Service Employment Program** – The Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP) is a community service and work-based training program for persons age 55 or older with limited incomes. SCSEP is a training program that provides older West Virginians with the needed skills to obtain employment. Targeting those age 55 and older who live at or below 125% of the federal poverty level, the SCSEP places seniors at nonprofit or government organizations for up to 48 months, where they acquire on-the-job skills that will enable them to find gainful employment.

**SNAP Education & Training** – a free service available to most SNAP participants who want to increase their skills and knowledge and reduce their need for SNAP. All SNAP E&T participants receive a coach who will help navigate each person’s individual goals.

**Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)** – The WV WORKS program provides temporary financial assistance to low income families. The program is based on the goals of assisting economically dependent and at-risk families to become self supporting.

**West Virginia Herbert Henderson Office of Minority Affairs** – The Herbert Henderson Office of Minority Affairs (HHOMA) mission is to provide forums for discussion of minority issues and to assist in the development of strategies to deal with those issues.

**West Virginia Veterans** – Veterans and eligible spouses who meet certain eligibility requirements for services will have early access to job listings and other benefits.

Referral system: <https://nowrongdoor.wv.gov/>

**YouthBuild** – At YouthBuild programs in the United States and across the globe, low-income young people learn construction skills to help build affordable housing and other community assets such as community centers and schools.



## Online Tools

**College for West Virginia** – Designed to help students from middle school through adulthood, and parents to explore the resources needed to assure a successful college experience. The website also provides resource for school professionals.

**O\*NET Online** – The O\*NET Online website contains descriptions across 900+ occupations for users to match to their goals and needs. The information provides comprehensive reports about requirements, characteristics, and available opportunities.

**Pathways to the Future** – This site is a collection of resources, tools and people to help students with disabilities, through the journey from youth to adulthood. Plan for your future by exploring pre-employment transition services on jobs and careers, education/training after high school, independent living skills, and partners and programs to help you along the way.





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