

Large Group Discussion on Potential Build Back Better Funding December 1, 2021, 2:55pm – 3:50pm

Language from House-passed legislation; pending Senate action:

- *\$100,000,000 for carrying out improvements to the workforce and labor market information systems authorized under section 15 of the Wagner-Peyser Act (29 U.S.C. 491-2).*
- *Appropriated to the Department of Labor for fiscal year 2022 [October 1, 2021-September 30, 2022], to remain available until September 30, 2026, except that no amounts may be expended after September 30, 2031 [end of fiscal year 2031].*

If this language is enacted, how should the \$100 million be spent?

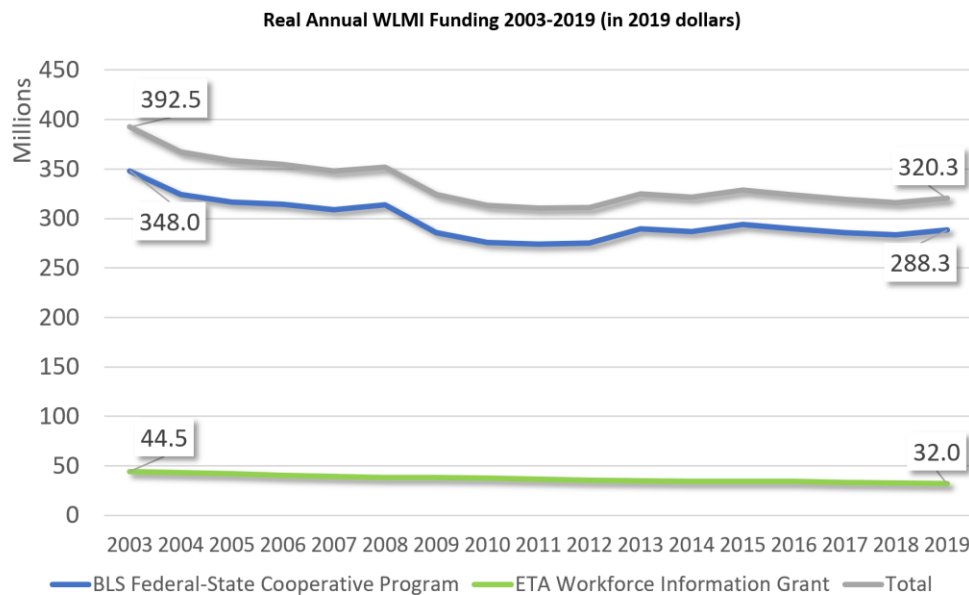
- Amount at federal level?
- Amount at state level?
 - Formula vs. competitive?
- When should funds be distributed?
 - ASAP?
 - Distribute across FY 2022 through FY 2026?

Potential Criteria (Based on 12/1 conversations):

- Allocate funding as soon as possible. (*What is the soonest possible?*)
- Look for the greatest potential ROI, with both funding to states and at federal level. (*What could be reasonably accomplished?*)
- Focus on increasing state Workforce Information Grants.
- With additional WIG funding, emphasize ability to use those funds for: 1) participation in multistate data collaboratives; and 2) new product development.
- Balance of funding *not provided directly to states through WIG* to support the development of better state and local occupational employment projections.
- Investments in evidence-building strategy, learning agenda.
- Look to previous WIAC recommendations, especially the emphasis on enhanced UI wage records.
- Need to emphasize local and regional participation, not stopping at the state level.
- Align with broader economic recovery efforts.

Consider elements of previous WIAC recommendations, including the following:

- Adequately Fund State Workforce and Labor Market Information Infrastructure to Meet 21st Century Demands for Data-Driven Decision-Making:** Request Congress double the funding provided directly to state WLMI offices to produce, analyze, and disseminate vital WLMI, as well as funding provided to ETA and BLS to support that critical work at the state level. (Additional \$32 million/year for WIG; additional \$288 million/year for BLS Federal-State Cooperative Program)



- Advocate for the Adoption of Enhanced Unemployment Insurance Wage Records by including Information on the Occupational Job Title(s), Hours Worked, and Job Site Location:** We acknowledge that this improvement is a significant lift for states and employers in terms of resources and financial investment. It is also a substantial investment for implementation—people, training, and dollars would have to be successfully committed. While the upfront costs will be significant, we are confident this investment will reap exponential rewards.
- Expand Information on Occupations, Skills, and Credentials:** The WIAC recommends that the Secretary increase investments in information on the workforce skill requirements of current and emerging occupations, including credential attainment and outcomes, and transferability of skills among industries and occupations.
- Develop Information on the Changing Nature of Work:** The WIAC recommends that the Secretary pursue the regular collection and development of information that provides an understanding of the scope and volume of alternative work arrangements or other causes for the reduction in traditional workforce participation.