

## VI Workforce System Introduces:

# The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)

**The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)** will help job seekers and workers access employment, education, training and support services critical to success in the labor market. Employers are matched with skilled workers needed to compete in the global economy. This new Legislation presents an extraordinary opportunity to improve job and career options for our territory's workers and jobseekers through an integrated, job-driven public workforce system. It promotes the development of a strong and helpful environment where agencies, businesses and employers collaborate to provide coordinated services that allow individuals to secure employment and stay employed.

### Highlights of WIOA Reforms to the Public Workforce System

- **Helps Employers Find Workers with the Necessary Skills:** WIOA emphasizes engaging employers across the workforce system to align training with needed skills and match employers with qualified workers.
- **Targets Workforce Services to Better Serve Job Seekers:** WIOA promotes the use of career pathways and sector partnerships to increase employment in in-demand industries and occupations. WIOA adds basic skills deficient as a priority category for Adult services. WIOA also focuses Youth program services to out-of-school youth up to the age of 25-years-old.
- **Improves Services to Individuals with Disabilities:** WIOA increases individuals with disabilities' access to high-quality workforce services to prepare them for competitive integrated employment. It requires employer and business engagement and promotes physical and programmatic accessibility to employment and training services for individuals with disabilities. .
- **Supports Access to Services:** To ensure that job seekers have easy access to services, the WIOA requires co-location of mandatory partner programs (i.e. Vocational Rehabilitation, TANF and SNAP services).

### WIOA Facts

- President Barack Obama signed WIOA into law on July 22, 2014.
- In general, the Act takes effect on July 1, 2015.
- WIOA supersedes the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 and amends the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act, the Wagner-Peyser Act, and the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.
- Additional information on the WIOA can be accessed on the United States Department of Labor websites: [www.doleta.gov/wioa](http://www.doleta.gov/wioa) and [www.wioa.workforce3one.org](http://www.wioa.workforce3one.org)
- Virgin Islanders can visit the VIDOL website ([www.vidol.gov](http://www.vidol.gov)) for more information, or visit the American Job Center locations.



"The Virgin Islands Department of Labor is an Equal Opportunity Employer with Equal Opportunity Programs"

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**Partner Programs and Services**



**American Job Centers Housed at the Following  
Department of Labor Locations:**

**St. Thomas**

53A & 54B Kronprindsen Gade  
St. Thomas, Virgin Islands 00802  
Telephone: (340) 776-3700  
Fax: (340) 774-5908

**St. Croix**

4401 Sion Farm  
Christiansted, Virgin Islands 00820  
Telephone: (340) 773-1994  
Fax: (340) 773-0094 or (340) 773-1858



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