



# VIRGINIA CAREER WORKS

BAY CONSORTIUM REGION

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“A strong economy begins with a strong, well-educated workforce.”

-Bill Owens

## Workforce Newsletter

### *What is the Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act, or WIOA?*

The Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act (WIOA) of 2014 was bipartisan effort which revitalized and transformed the public workforce system so that it reflects the realities of the 21st century economy and meets the needs of jobseekers, workers, and employers. Our nation's workforce development system provides critical support and services to jobseekers and workers who want to develop the necessary skills for in demand occupations and to employers who need skilled workers to compete.

### *And what is its purpose?*

WIOA's purpose is to focus on the importance of education, training, credentials, and skills; of helping people with barriers to employment; of meeting the needs of employers; of increasing the success and economic self-sufficiency of workers; and of aligning workforce development with education and economic development. That's quite a challenge, but it's also inspiring, below are the goals of WIOA:

To increase, for individuals in the United States, particularly those individuals with barriers to employment, access to and opportunities for the employment, education, training, and support services they need to succeed in the labor market.

To support the alignment of workforce investment, education, and economic development systems in support of a comprehensive, accessible, and high-quality workforce development system in the United States.

To improve the quality and labor market relevance of workforce investment, education, and economic development efforts to provide America's workers with the skills and credentials necessary to secure and advance in employment with family-sustaining wages and to provide America's employers with the skilled workers the employers need to succeed in a global economy.

To promote improvement in the structure of and delivery of services through the United States workforce development system to better address the employment and skill needs of workers, jobseekers, and employers.

To increase the prosperity of workers and employers in the United States, by promoting the economic growth of communities, regions, and states, and the global competitiveness of the United States.

To provide workforce investment activities, through statewide and local workforce development systems, that increase the employment, retention, and earnings of participants, and increase attainment of recognized postsecondary credentials by participants, and as a result, improve the quality of the workforce, reduce welfare dependency, increase economic self-sufficiency, meet the skill requirements of employers, and enhance the productivity and competitiveness of the nation.

The Virginia Career Works – Bay Consortium Region has been closely following the updates and instructions from the U.S. Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Virginia Department of Health to limit the spread of Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and ensure the safety of our customers, staff, and our community.

## ***Where People Can Seek & Access Services***

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## ***Information Related to COVID-19***

If you have lost employment and seek to apply for Unemployment Compensation, please click on this link to apply online at the [Virginia Employment Commission website](#) or call the VEC Customer Contact Center by calling 1-866-832-2363, Monday through Friday 8:30am – 5:00pm.

[Pandemic Unemployment Assistance \(PUA\) and Unemployment Insurance \(UI\) provided for under the CARES Act](#)

[Tutorial Video – “How to File an Unemployment Claim on the Virginia Workforce Connection website”](#)

The Workforce Board staff continues to monitor the situation; any updates will be posted to the [BCWDB website](#) and the [Bay Consortium Workforce Development Board Facebook page](#). At this time, prevention, social separation and preparation are the best courses of action, and the BCWDB encourages all customers, staff, and community members to follow the CDC recommended hygiene and social distancing practices.

[COVID-19 Related Links Compiled 6-11-2020 Virginia Department of Social Services COVID-19 Resources](#)

[Frequently Asked Questions From Workers Regarding COVID-19](#)

[Las Preguntas Mas Frecuentes Para Los Empleados Sobre COVID-19](#)

Please feel free to contact us with any questions at:

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