



# Workforce Investment Act



---

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation



THE ROBERT WOOD JOHNSON FOUNDATION

---

*IMPROVING PATIENT-PROVIDER COMMUNICATION FOR LATINOS*

# **Workforce Investment Act**

© Hablamos Juntos  
1050 N. Mills Avenue • Claremont, CA 91711  
Phone 909.607.9834 • Fax 909.607.9844

---

December 13, 2002

# Table of Contents

<i>Introduction to the Workforce Investment Act</i>	1
Hablamos Juntos Grantee Area Resources	
Alabama	3
California	4
Nebraska	5
Pennsylvania	6
Rhode Island	7
South Carolina	8
Tennessee	9
Texas	10
Virginia	11
Washington	12

# Introduction to the Workforce Investment Act

---

## BACKGROUND

Hablamos Juntos encourages grantees to identify community-based solutions to reduce the language barrier facing Latinos with limited English proficiency (LEP) in health care. The Workforce Investment Act (WIA) may be one resource for Hablamos Juntos grantees who are looking to increase the number of trained interpreters available in their catchment area. There may be a large, untapped labor pool in their defined catchment area, and the WIA may be a resource for funds that support the enhancement of language capacity potential in medical interpreters. Efforts are currently underway by the federal government to create a national workforce preparation and employment system that meets the needs of job seekers and those seeking to advance their careers along with the needs of the nation's employers. The following provides a history of the WIA, an example of how one State has developed health care training programs under the WIA, and a listing of local resources for the ten states that have an Hablamos Juntos demonstration site.

---

## HISTORY

The [Workforce Investment Act](#) (WIA) was signed into law by President Clinton on August 7, 1998 to replace the Adult Education Act. The signing marked the first major job training reform in over 15 years. WIA was passed to reform the nation's job training system that formerly was fragmented, contained duplicative programs, and did not serve either job seekers or employers well. Full implementation for all states was to be completed by July 1, 2000. The goal of WIA is to integrate welfare, unemployment compensation, employment services, and training into one seamless system of public assistance reform.

The WIA calls for states to apply a "work first" concept to the use of federally funded job training efforts. One-stop centers are intended to serve the locally defined needs of both adults and youths seeking work. Among other things, it encourages states to tie training efforts closely to the employment orientation of the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF), Food Stamp, Dislocated Worker, and Unemployment Insurance programs. The goal is a continued decline in the need for public assistance for those able to work.

Title II of the Act reauthorized the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act (AEFLA) through 2003. The AEFLA is designed to assist adults (1) to become literate and obtain the knowledge and skills necessary for employment and self-sufficiency; (2) who are parents to obtain the educational skills necessary to become full partners in the educational development of their children; and (3) to complete a secondary school education.

Congress is scheduled to reauthorize WIA in 2003. The Administration is currently working on a number of initiatives designed to inform the reauthorization process. Grantees are encouraged to learn more about how their states are positioned on this issue and consider its implications for the development of a labor pool to fill needs for interpreters in health care settings.

The Workforce Innovation Networks' (WINs) initiative seeks to connect business organizations with employers, educators, training providers, community organizations, and social service providers. WINs have two goals: help employers meet their workforce needs and help low-income individuals advance their skills and obtain family-supporting jobs. Grantees may find it worthwhile to actively engage in these discussions locally.

Other Key Components of the Workforce Investment Act include:

- Streamlining Services
  - Programs and providers will co-locate, coordinate, and integrate activities and information, creating a coherent and accessible one-stop system for individuals and businesses.

- Empowering Individuals
  - Individual Training Accounts (ITA's) at qualified institutions will supplement financial aid from other sources and may pay for all the costs of training. A system of consumer reports will provide key information on the performance outcomes of training and education providers.
- Universal Access
  - Any job seeker in the US who wants to advance his or her career will have access to the one-stop system and core employment-related services.
- Increased Accountability
  - State and local entities managing the workforce investment system must meet core indicators of performance, or suffer sanctions. Through ITA's, participants choose training based on program outcomes. To survive in the market, training providers must make accountability for performance a top priority.

### **Healthcare Workforce Opportunities**

The state of Maryland has made use of this legislation and provides funds to educate and train individuals in several health professions. Through WIA funding, Maryland has designated Occupational Training programs that are eligible for reimbursement. These programs are available at various community colleges throughout the state. Some of the health care workforce areas that qualify include chemical dependency counseling, EKG technician, dental assistant and hygienist, pharmacy technician, gerontology, medical billing and coding, venipuncture, phlebotomy, and nursing assistant. Funding for the training programs is provided to eligible individuals through WIA Individual Training Accounts. Funds for the WIA Title I program flow from the United States Department of Labor through the Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation/Office of Employment Training (DLLR/OET). The OET, using a formula based on the population mix in each locality, allocates the WIA funds to Workforce Investment Areas throughout the State.

A Workforce Investment Area is a region with 200,000 or more residents and a common labor pool. Each investment area is required to have a Local Workforce Investment Board (LWIB). By law, each LWIB is chaired by a businessperson and comprised of a majority of private sector representatives, business owners, chief executives, managers, and policy makers. Other LWIB members are drawn from public job service, education, social services, rehabilitation, and economic development agencies, as well as from organized labor and community based organizations.

The local boards in Maryland develop job training programs for implementation in their respective areas, oversee the operation of those programs, and determine which companies, educational institutions, and community organizations will receive funding for program operation. The WIA cooperates with local employers and government to select the workforce development programs most beneficial to the region, and to tailor programs to meet the local employment training needs.

Given this example, medical interpretation training, if defined as a program that would most benefit a region, may become an eligible and approved area for training support through WIA in the grantee states. Representatives of the grantee sites and multiple community partners may already participate in the LWIB and may be positioned to inform the board of the growing need for trained interpreters in health care.

## ALABAMA

---

[http://www.adeca.state.al.us/adeca/pages/pages\\_stm/decadefault.stm](http://www.adeca.state.al.us/adeca/pages/pages_stm/decadefault.stm)

This is Alabama's Department of Economic and Community Affairs (ADECA) home page. Here there is information on the Career Center System, the Workforce Development Division, the School-to-Career System, and the Welfare-to-Work program.

[http://srdc.msstate.edu/activities/states\\_wia/alabama/al\\_wia.htm](http://srdc.msstate.edu/activities/states_wia/alabama/al_wia.htm)

Alabama is divided into eight workforce investment areas. Users can select a geographic area, or WIA, in the map to view local contact information and economic and social data, or to obtain a state profile. Data include population statistics, educational attainment, industry employment, and industry earnings.

<http://www.dir.state.al.us/es/WIA.html>

Training opportunities in Alabama, including Job Corps, Alabama Works, Alabama Technical Scholarship Program, Alabama Career Centers System, etc. Links to these organizations' websites are listed, along with a brief description for each.

<http://www.northalabamaskills.org/about.htm>

The Alabama State Board of Education created the North Alabama Skills Center by resolution, in 1978, to provide a comprehensive system of training and training-related services to a selected target population. The North Alabama Skills Center can trace its origin back to 1962, with the implementation of the Manpower Development and Training Act. In 2001, the North Alabama Skills Center became the North Alabama Skills Training Consortium. The Consortium is an agency within the Alabama Department of Postsecondary Education and is funded through the federal (WIA) Workforce Investment Act legislation via contract with the Workforce Development Division of Alabama's Department of Economic and Community Affairs.

This site contains a job search, information on job training, tuition assistance, career centers, and locations. Personnel from CareerLinks are available to assist local customers, citizens and employers with appropriate employment and training needs.

<http://www.aops-inc.org/>

Alabama Opportunity Programs, Inc. provides job training and placement, including a full range of services for migrant and seasonal farm workers. Services are designed to provide farm workers with maximum employment opportunities, which will lead to the economic upgrading of farm worker families, as well as a full mix of related services. Services will be directed toward either providing alternatives to agricultural labor or toward improving an agricultural life-style. AOPS will also work with other partners in Alabama's One-Stop System to ensure that all possible areas of services to the customers are provided.

AOPS general service strategy includes those services available through the Workforce Investment Act, Section 167 and the One-Stop delivery system. It consists of the core, intensive and training services, along with related assistance services. Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) have been established with other One-Stop Delivery System Partners through the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs (ADECA) in which AOPS is the Service Delivery Agency for the WIA, Section 167 Program. MOUs have also been established with other WIA Section 167 grantees across the Southeast and in the Delta region.

This site also has information in Spanish at <http://www.aops-inc.org/spanish.htm>

## CALIFORNIA

---

[http://www.calwia.org/workforce\\_development/index.tpl](http://www.calwia.org/workforce_development/index.tpl)

The **California Workforce Investment Board (CWIB)** advises and assists in planning, coordinating, and monitoring the provisions of California's workforce development programs and services. All members of the Board are appointed by the Governor and represent the many facets of workforce development -- business, labor, public education, higher education, economic development, youth activities, employment and training, as well as the Legislature.

Under the policy guidance of the CWIB, the Employment Development Department (EDD) <http://www.edd.ca.gov/> administers the Title I workforce investment systems throughout the State. They are responsible for the State-level day-to-day administration of the WIA funds for adults, displaced workers, and youth. EDD works in cooperation with Local Workforce Investment Areas (LWIA). These LWIAs are comprised of units of local government and are designated by the Governor based on population and commonality of labor market. Each LWIA is administered by a Local Board certified by the State and comprised of representatives from private sector businesses, organized labor, community-based organizations, local government agencies, and local education agencies. Local Boards designate the One-Stop operators, provide policy guidance, and oversee the job training activities within their local areas.

Title I of the WIA authorizes and funds a number of employment and training programs in California. These programs help to prepare Californians to participate in the State's workforce by increasing their employment and earnings potential, improve their educational and occupational skills, and, in some cases, reduce their dependency on welfare.

## NEBRASKA

---

The WIA system in Nebraska is composed of various partners, working together to provide training and opportunities for Nebraskans.

<http://www.dol.state.ne.us/nwd/center.cfm?PRICAT=4&SUBCAT=4B>

Important information about WIA programs includes State Workforce Investment Board, Issuances, Policies, State Plans, local WIA areas, and more.

<http://www.workforce.state.ne.us/explorer/nytp/nysp.htm>

This is a list of contacts for workforce development for Omaha, Lincoln, and Greater Nebraska.

<http://www.dol.state.ne.us/nwd/center.cfm?PRICAT=1&SUBCAT=1Z>

For people looking for a job, needing career information, or wanting to know more about benefits and rights as a worker in Nebraska. Contains the following areas: Worker services, information on Nebraska JobLink, Unemployment Benefits, Job/Career Information, Safety/Labor Laws, Rights to Appeal, Dislocated Workers, and America's JobBank.

<http://stc.neded.org/>

School-to-Career is a statewide system of education and employment opportunities that will enable young people to attain the skills and knowledge required in the workplace of today and tomorrow, and to transition smoothly from school to work.

<http://nejoblink.dol.state.ne.us/>

Nebraska's JobLink provides job searches, resume services and one-on-one assistance to job seekers. Includes on-line job posting and job tracking services. Sponsored by the Nebraska Department of Labor.

**PENNSYLVANIA**

---

[http://www.paworkforce.state.pa.us/pa\\_workforce/site/default.asp](http://www.paworkforce.state.pa.us/pa_workforce/site/default.asp)

Contains WIA links for Pennsylvania and the US. A work in progress designed to quickly distribute information on the state's implementation of the federal Workforce Investment Act of 1998 and to provide a forum for emerging questions and answers about the act. The site will continually be changing and upgraded as new and noteworthy information becomes available.

<http://www.pacareerlink.state.pa.us/homeframe.asp>

Team Pennsylvania CareerLink is a cooperative effort to provide one-stop delivery of career services to job seekers, employers, and other interested individuals. These services are also available in local Pennsylvania CareerLink offices and participating agencies. Their mission is to function as a self-directed Job Search System providing quality customer service to the people of Pennsylvania, enabling all customers to make informed choices. Their goal is to provide a self-service system in which interested individuals have access to employment, education, and training resources. Contains a job search tool, resume assistance, and training programs. This website also offers information on occupational education training programs to meet various needs, and it also provides descriptions of various certified programs including a review of past performance.

<http://www.able.state.pa.us/able/cwp/view.asp?A=3&Q=39441>

Contains a list of state agencies that are cooperative partners in implementation of the Workforce Investment Act in Pennsylvania. Includes Team Pennsylvania CareerLink, Team Pennsylvania, Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry, Pennsylvania Department of Community & Economic Development, Pennsylvania Department of Education (Bureau of Adult Basic and Literacy Education), Pennsylvania Department of Aging, Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare and the Pennsylvania Workforce Investment Implementation Site

## R H O D E I S L A N D

---

<http://www.dlt.state.ri.us/webdev/WIO/default.htm>

RI Department of Labor & Training's Workforce Investment Office. Contains the latest information and policies regarding the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) and the Welfare-to-Work (WtW) programs.

[http://www.dlt.state.ri.us/webdev/WIO/training\\_programs.htm](http://www.dlt.state.ri.us/webdev/WIO/training_programs.htm)

This is a list of certified programs for Adults and Dislocated Workers. Includes Apprenticeships, Careers in Business Services, Child Care Services, Computer Information Services, Construction Trades, Engineering & Related Technology, Food Services, Health Services, Mechanics/Service Technicians, Media, Personal & Miscellaneous Service, Precision Production Trade, and Transportation

<http://www.dlt.state.ri.us/>

Rhode Island Department of Labor & Training homepage. Contains information on benefits, employer services, job seeker services, labor market information, unemployment information, temporary disability insurance, worker's compensation, workforce development services, job recruitment, career resource network, job bank, classifieds, and much more.

<http://www.griworkforce.com/>

Workforce Partnership of Greater Rhode Island -- Contains information on the organization and the opportunities it offers to employers, job seekers and students. Employer Grant Opportunities, Employee Investment Grants, On-the-Job Training, Training Provider Certification, WIA Implementation, Useful Links, 2002 Youth Initiatives.

The mission of the Workforce Partnership of Greater RI is to provide strategic leadership to meet the current and future human resource needs of Rhode Island's employers and to ensure a well-trained, self-sufficient and adaptable workforce.

Employer and Job Seeker services include:

- Needs assessment, goal-setting, grant writing assistance, and information and referrals to alternate resources for companies and business consortia;
- Facilitation of employer participation in federal, state and local workforce development programs;
- Coordination of job fairs, grant application workshops, and school-to-career linkages;
- Support to industry groups and associations; and,
- Development of customized training programs to address employer skill shortages.

[http://www.griworkforce.com/WIA\\_Plan/WIA\\_Plan.htm](http://www.griworkforce.com/WIA_Plan/WIA_Plan.htm)

These are the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 Greater Rhode Island Plan documents.

## **SOUTH CAROLINA**

---

South Carolina's One-Stop Employment and Training System - South Carolina's newest one-stop employment and training website provides access to: Jobs (Statewide and Nationwide) Training (free federal programs and assistance to workers who qualify) Education (complete list of schools, colleges and what they have to offer), Careers (fastest-growing occupations), and Special Assistance Available

<http://www.sces.org/>

This is the site for the South Carolina Employment Security Commission. There is information for job seekers, employers, labor market information, WIA information, etc. Data are provided on unemployment rates and benefits.

<http://www.sces.org/Individual/index.htm>

South Carolina Employment Security Commission has links for job search, creating a resume, unemployment information, etc.

[http://www.sces.org/webwia/net\\_index.htm](http://www.sces.org/webwia/net_index.htm)

South Carolina Workforce Investment Act – Offers search capability for Training Services, provider applications, on-the-job training occupational opportunities, information on eligible youth providers, WIA information by county, etc.

<http://www.ajb.org/sc/seeker>

South Carolina's JobBank allows users to track job searches, post résumés, create cover letters and develop a personal on-line Career Kit to facilitate job searches.

**T E N N E S S E E**

---

<http://www.state.tn.us/labor-wfd/workact.html>

This is an overview of the WIA program. There is the ability to download the Strategic Five-Year State Workforce Investment Plan in PDF format.

[http://www.state.tn.us/thec/work\\_train.html](http://www.state.tn.us/thec/work_train.html)

This is documentation on the WIA program in Tennessee. Institutions providing training services must be certified as eligible training providers by one of the state's 13 local Workforce Investment Boards before being placed on the statewide list monitored by the Tennessee Higher Education Commission. In order to remain on the state list, the institution must meet minimum performance standards established by the federal guidelines and the Governor.

Beginning July 1, 2000, the Tennessee Higher Education Commission was designated by the Governor as the state agency that will coordinate, monitor and maintain the Eligible Training Provider List for the Workforce Investment Act (WIA). The commission's experience and infrastructure in serving as the state licensing agency for post-secondary institutions and overseeing and authorizing schools which offer training and education meant that the agency was well-positioned to develop a statewide list of eligible training providers for WIA. Currently, the WIA list is being developed under the Division of Post-Secondary Authorization. The main duties include evaluating institutions to assure that they are meeting minimum performance standards and disseminating the list of providers statewide.

[http://ndweb.state.tn.us/cgi-bin/nd\\_CGI\\_50/CBJT/wiaIndex](http://ndweb.state.tn.us/cgi-bin/nd_CGI_50/CBJT/wiaIndex)

Users can search Tennessee's Statewide List of Certified Training Providers. Up to five criteria can be searched individually, and multiple criteria can also be searched in the areas of - Local Workforce Development Area, County, Area of Study, Training Provider, and Efficiency.

<http://www.wscclcc.tn.us/cwd/Grants/wia1.asp>

Information on Local Workforce Area 2 (LWIA 2) includes 10 counties in East Tennessee: Claiborne, Cocke, Grainger, Greene, Hamblen, Hancock, Hawkins, Jefferson, Sevier, and Union. The Local Workforce Investment Board in LWIA 2 is the policy-making body for the area. Private sector board members, who make up a majority of the board, are appointed by local elected officials. The LWIB 2 Board also includes representatives from business and industry, education, labor, and agencies involved in workforce development. The board is responsible for policy that guides the WIA staff in the Walter's State Center for Workforce Development. The act provides for a Youth Council in each Local Workforce Investment Area. The LWIA 2 Youth Council has a responsibility for overseeing the year-round youth program and making recommendations on issues concerning youth to the LWIA 2 board. Youth programs are operating in each LWIA 2 county.

<http://www.state.tn.us/labor-wfd/cc/>

The Tennessee Career Center System was designed with valuable input from businesses and private industry statewide. The result is a system able to provide maximum workforce results from one convenient location. The System is designed to provide 75% of Tennessee citizens access to free, comprehensive employment related services at a facility within 25 miles of their home. The other 25% can access services from Affiliate sites.

The Tennessee Career Center System is comprised of three types of facilities; regional Comprehensive Career Centers, Affiliate Sites and local Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development (TDOL&WD) local offices. Fourteen full-service, Comprehensive Regional Career Centers and Affiliate Sites, which are an on-going development, are conveniently located across the state to provide services to both employers and job-seekers.

**T E X A S**

---

In Texas, the Texas Workforce Commission administers the WIA program. Services are provided through local Workforce Centers overseen by Local Workforce Development Boards. WIA offers unique programs for persons who have lost their jobs in mass layoffs or plant closings, or who have been laid off and are unlikely to return to their jobs. The regular Dislocated Worker program under WIA offers employment and training programs for eligible workers who are unemployed due to no fault of their own or have received official notice of a layoff. This program allows for individualized re-employment services.

Rapid Response is a program that provides short-term, early intervention and immediate assistance with layoffs and/or plant closures affecting 50 or more workers.

For more information visit the US DOL Employment and Training Administration site and for assistance with long-term in depth services contact the local Workforce Development Boards.

<http://www.twc.state.tx.us/jobs/job.html>

To better serve Texas employers and job seekers, TWC offers several system resources and tools to provide job opportunities and job placement. Contains a list of several employment resources to aid, assist and support the workforce of Texas in an informational job exchange. Contains a link to The Governor's Job Bank, a listing of state government job openings in Texas Jobs can be searched by type of work, geographic area and salary. The Governor's Job Bank also allows users to retrieve Texas state government job openings and view relevant job details. Information on where to apply is provided along with links to several state agencies' Web sites. Most jobs require the State of Texas Application for Employment, which is available for downloading.

<http://www.twc.state.tx.us/boards/wia/txwia.html>

Contains WIA-related information, such as the annual report, the Texas state WIA plan, Texas WIA Eligibility Technical Assistance Guide (contains policies and procedures for completing WIA eligibility for Customers) Statewide List of Certified Training Providers (General information and instructions for accessing the Statewide List of Certified Training Providers are provided here), Board Planning Modification Guidelines, WIA Title I Final Rule, WIA Related Web Sites, Grandfather Provisions and Texas, Proposed WIA Implementation Schedule, and WIA Resource Documents.

<http://www.dfwjobs.com/index.asp>

North Central Texas Work Force homepage

<http://www.dfwjobs.com/locations.htm>

Information on Sixteen offices, called Texas WorkForce Centers, located within the fourteen-county WorkForce Development Area. Official One-Stop locations are in Allen, Cleburne, Denton, Mineral Wells, and Waxahachie. The remaining offices offer services based upon the one-stop methodology, with as many workforce development partners present as possible.

<http://www.dfwjobs.com/education.htm>

North Central Texas Work Force identifies training programs that will meet the needs of the local labor market. Training programs are selected based upon their high potential for sustained demand and/or growth. NCTW provides a variety of educational and training opportunities, based on national, state, and local initiatives.

<http://www.southtexasworkforce.org/Locations.htm>

South Texas Workforce Development Board

Provides job seekers with an array of employment information, including Job Search Database, Job Referrals, Resume Writing Program, Typing, Fax and Copier Services, Typing Skill Program, Reference Books on Job Search and Colleges, DECIDE, Texas C.A.R.E.S. (Career exploration software), Governors Job Bank and America's Job Bank.

<http://www.twc.state.tx.us/svcs/jtpa/dislocat.html>

Dislocated workers' programs in Texas

**VIRGINIA**

---

<http://www.vec.state.va.us/wia.cfm>

This is a description of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 on the Virginia Employment Commission website.

<http://www.careerconnect.state.va.us/3westernva/default.htm>

This is the website for the Western Virginia Workforce Investment Act Area CareerConnect, a one-stop workforce development system. The Virginia Employment Commission and Local Workforce Investment Boards have developed CareerConnect as a result of a three-year grant Virginia received from the U.S. Department of Labor. CareerConnect is a customer service network designed to assist workers, students, individuals seeking employment and employers with an abundance of educational, employment, and career-related information. Included are the best and most current resources available in each of five major categories. Through this website, one is able to find valuable information and link to other services of interest as follows:

Job Seekers are able to search for jobs, receive assistance in conducting a job search, locate training and retraining opportunities, or conduct research on local, state, and national labor markets. Employers are able to access job seeker resumes, information on public and private placement services, training opportunities for current or future employees, labor market information, laws which effect business and various economic development and tax incentive resources.

Training & Education opportunities are available for review at both the state level and regionally across the Commonwealth. Information is also available on financial assistance and pre-paid tuition opportunities. Labor Market Information is available for employers and job seekers wishing to quickly locate the most recent information available on local, state, and national economic and employment trends. Community Resources have been included to assist job seekers, their families, and employers with a wide array of information and assistance available throughout the Commonwealth. All of this information is presented on a statewide or regional basis.

<http://www.careerconnect.state.va.us/8socentral/default.htm>

South Central Virginia Local Workforce Investment Area CareerConnect

<http://www.so.cc.va.us/workforce/wia.htm>

Virginia community colleges- Because Virginia community colleges receive Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Technical Education Act funds, they are required partners in the design, development and implementation of a "one-stop" system of employment and training services. The WDS unit provides support to colleges in their local efforts and works at the State level to fulfill VCCS responsibility.

<http://www.so.cc.va.us/workforce/links.htm>

Workforce Development Services Resource Center includes information for Business and Industry, Employers, Economic Development, Employees, Students, Parents, Job Seekers, Faculty, Staff, Workforce Development Professionals, Legislative Links, Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Links, Apprenticeship, and Tech prep.

<http://www.wiaone.com/>

Provides Employment & Training Services For Southwest Virginia

[http://www.wiaone.com/training\\_providers.htm](http://www.wiaone.com/training_providers.htm)

Providing Employment and Training Services For Southwest Virginia. Contains a list of training providers.

<http://cep.jmu.edu/workforce/>

Contains a listing of current and future course offerings at the Workforce Development Campus and a directory of local, state and national adult education and workplace literacy related web sites.

## WASHINGTON

---

The Health Care Personnel Shortage Task Force is a statewide effort convened by the Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board to address the shortage of health care personnel in Washington State.

<http://www.wtb.wa.gov/HEALTHCARETASKFORCE.HTM>

In response to the critical shortage of health care workers in Washington, leaders of three committees of the state House of Representatives (Representative Phyllis Gutierrez Kenney, Chair of the Higher Education Committee; Representative Eileen Cody, Chair of the Health Care Committee; Representative Steve Conway, Chair of the Commerce and Labor Committee; and Representative Shay Schual-Berke, Vice Chair of the House Health Care Committee) wrote to the Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board (WTECB) to request that the Board convene a Health Care Personnel Shortage Task Force, guided by [SHCR4422](#).

The Task Force is charged with:

- identifying ways to increase education and training program capacity for health care personnel;
- identifying ways to improve student recruitment into health careers;
- recommending modifications to state regulations and statutes to help alleviate the shortage; and,
- delivering a report to the legislature by December 31, 2002.

The Task Force is also to consider ways to increase the racial and ethnic diversity of the health care workforce to reflect the communities served when formulating its recommendations.

---

**HABLAMOS JUNTOS NATIONAL  
PROGRAM OFFICE STAFF**

---

Yolanda Partida, National Program Director  
Rosa Ramirez, Deputy Director  
Todd Blickenstaff, Research Associate  
Rebecca Romo, Program Assistant  
Elsa Maldonado, Webmaster