



# Workforce Investment Opportunity Act (WIOA)

The Workforce Investment Opportunity Act (WIOA) provides new opportunities for people with disabilities because key provisions of the Act strengthen services to youth and adults with disabilities.<sup>1</sup> Specifically, WIOA requires the following:

- Increased access to high-quality workforce services and preparation for competitive integrated employment for people with disabilities.
- American Job Centers (Career One Stops) will provide physical and programmatic accessibility to employment and training services for people with disabilities.
- Young people with disabilities will receive extensive pre-employment transition services so they can successfully obtain competitive integrated employment.
- State vocational rehabilitation agencies will set aside at least 15 percent of their funding to provide transition services to young people with disabilities.
- Vocational Rehabilitation state grant programs will engage employers to improve participant employment outcomes.

To learn more about and access the benefits of WIOA, get in touch with the American Job Center Network online at [careeronestop.org](https://careeronestop.org) or in person using

the locator at [careeronestop.org/localhelp/americanjobcenters/find-american-job-centers.aspx?&frd=true](https://careeronestop.org/localhelp/americanjobcenters/find-american-job-centers.aspx?&frd=true).

It pays to work. Even with a reduction in benefits due to income earned, people most often have more money. To see this, use SSI estimator tool provided in this guide.

The Social Security Administration has many programs designed to help people work in a way that is supported and may include continuation of benefits. For more information on these programs, visit the Social Security Administration Redbook at [ssa.gov/redbook/index.html](https://ssa.gov/redbook/index.html).

People can also use the disability benefits planner provided by the Social Security Administration at [ssa.gov/planners/disability](https://ssa.gov/planners/disability).

When people do receive Social Security Disability Income (SSDI) or Supplemental Security Income (SSI), they may have to use a representative payee. A representative payee is someone the Social Security Administration approves or appoints to manage the SSDI or SSI an individual receives. To learn more about the role of representative payee, review the next section in this guide or visit [ssa.gov/payee/bene.htm](https://ssa.gov/payee/bene.htm). This can give them information to ensure the representative payee is working in their best interest.

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<sup>1</sup> See United States Department of Labor, Employment and Training, WIOA Overview, [doleta.gov/WIOA/Overview.cfm](https://doleta.gov/WIOA/Overview.cfm). For additional information on workplace protections for people with disabilities, see US Equal Opportunity Employment Commission, [eoc.gov](https://eoc.gov)