# Introduction/Cover Letter for WIAC Expedited Recommendations

Pursuant to the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014 (WIOA), the Workforce Information

Advisory Council (Council) is pleased to provide for your consideration three expedited recommendations, unanimously approved by the Council, to improve the nation’s Workforce and Labor Market Information (WLMI) System. As President Biden directed in OMB Memorandum M-21-27, on Evidence-Based Policymaking: Learning Agendas and Annual Evaluation Plans: “There has never been greater urgency for actionable evidence to inform decision-making to serve the needs of the American people. To achieve our nation’s great promise, relying on high-quality, credible evidence must become the core of how we operate. Agencies must make evidence-based decisions guided by the best available science and data, and build and use this evidence in a way that upholds scientific integrity and is free from political considerations.”

The Council submitted its [first set of recommendations](https://www.doleta.gov/wioa/wiac/docs/WIAC_Recommendations_Report_2018-01-25_Final_and_Signed.pdf) to the Secretary of Labor (Secretary) in January 2018. After reconvening in 2020, the Council identified the need for expedited recommendations to address issues that the global pandemic had made more urgent. The Council believes that adoption of these expedited recommendations is critical to ensuring that individual students, workers, educators, employers, and policymakers have the information each needs to re-build and maintain thriving families and communities in the wake of the global pandemic. As stated in the FY 2022 Department of Labor Budget Request: “Workforce development will play a critical role in both rebuilding the economy, especially after the tremendous loss of jobs due to the pandemic, and in developing the workforce that will build the new backbone of our country. As more people look for jobs, rejoin the workforce, or seek out new opportunities in a changing economy, there will be a greater need for quality job training and education and meaningful credentials so workers can earn higher wages, develop rewarding and lasting careers, and improve their economic well-being.”

## Background

Through WIOA, Congress directs the Secretary to oversee development of a WLMI System that enables state and local labor market participants—including employers, students, workers, workforce investment boards, and education and training agencies and institutions—to make informed decisions.

The law directs the Secretary to develop the WLMI System:

* Through the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) and the Employment and Training Administration (ETA);
* In collaboration with states;
* In cooperation with the heads of other federal agencies to ensure complementarity and nonduplication; and
* In consultation with the 14-member Workforce Information Advisory Council appointed by the Secretary.

WLMI consists of the data and information used by businesses, workers, students, jobseekers, education and training providers, workforce development planners and policymakers, and others, to make informed decisions in areas such as hiring and advancement, career choice, curriculum development, and investments in training. Workforce and labor market information is essential to the nation’s economy, providing for the efficient operation of labor markets by supplying quality labor market intelligence. Accurate, objective, relevant, timely, and accessible WLMI is critical for:

* Building a skilled workforce that spurs business competitiveness and economic growth;
* Strengthening career pathways and guiding skill attainment for good jobs, economic opportunity, and career growth;
* Advancing equity for all, particularly for people of color and others who have been historically underserved, marginalized, and adversely affected by persistent poverty and inequality;
* Understanding the rapidly changing nature of work and how it impacts the workforce and U.S. economy; and
* Using evidence-based policymaking to ensure the effective use of workforce training and education funds.

## Summary of Recommendations

The Council’s three expedited recommendations focus on areas of increased importance in the wake of the global pandemic and where quick action is essential:

* **Recommendation 1:** Enhance the Unemployment Insurance Wage Record by including Information on the Occupational Job Title(s), Hours Worked, and Job Site Location
* **Recommendation 2:** Improve Data and Information on the Changing Nature of Work through a Department of Labor Working Group
* **Recommendation 3:** Adequately Fund State Workforce and Labor Market Information Infrastructure to Meet 21st Century Demands for Data-Driven Decision Making

The Council also requests that the recommended actions be incorporated into the Department’s [FY 2022-2026 Strategic Plan and Evidence-Building Plan](https://www.dol.gov/agencies/oasam/centers-offices/performance-management-center/reports/FY2022-2026-strategic-plan).