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 Number: WIN 0062, Change 1  
 Date: January 25, 2022  
 Expiration Date: N/A

**TO:** Washington WorkSource System

**FROM:** Gary Kamimura, Policy Manager

**SUBJECT:** Native American Outreach and Resources under WIOA

**Purpose:**

To encourage outreach to tribal entities, facilitate tribal representation on local workforce development boards, and provide information on resources available to support tribal economic and workforce development projects and programs.

**Action Required:**

Local workforce development boards (LWDBs) and their contractors must distribute this guidance broadly throughout the system to ensure that WorkSource system staff are familiar with its content and requirements.

**Content:**

Native Americans are identified in Section 3(24)(C) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) of 2014 as a population with barriers to employment and thereby a focus of outreach efforts to increase access to the WIOA one-stop system.

Section 166 of the Act also established the Native American Programs under which tribal applicants/grantees receive grants directly from the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) to develop the academic, occupational, and literacy skills of Native Americans; make Native Americans more competitive in the workforce and equip them with the entrepreneurial skills necessary for successful self-employment; and promote the economic and social development of Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian communities in alignment with the goals and values of such communities.

Annually, DOL issues WIOA operating guidance in the form of a Training and Employment Guidance Letter (TEGL) that identifies Program Year funding for the WIOA Section 166 Indian and Native American (INA) program that identifies the tribal entity, the state in which it is based, and the grant amount for both youth and adult activities. See the References section below for a link to the TEGL in effect at the time this WIN was issued.

## Tribal Outreach and Representation on Local Workforce Development Boards

WIOA established state and local workforce development boards to oversee workforce development activities authorized and operated in each state under the Act. The Act specifies the membership of state and local workforce development boards while providing the Governor and Local Chief Elected Officials (LCEOs) with authority to appoint members in alignment with membership composition requirements.

LCEOs are encouraged to actively pursue tribal representation on local workforce development boards. Such representation is critical to ensuring strong partnerships and alignment with tribal economic and workforce development efforts. In addition, tribal representation on local workforce development boards serves to support efforts to promote local board diversity, equity, and inclusion as well as culturally-sensitive one-stop programs and services.

LWDBs are encouraged to actively pursue one-stop partnerships with WIOA Section 166 grantees whose service delivery areas are within in Boards' workforce development areas (WDAs) as well as non-Section 166 tribal entities located within their WDAs.

## Tribal Resources

To address the resource needs of small tribes and WIOA Section 166 grantees, the Employment Security Department (ESD) commits to providing resources for the purpose of technical assistance, consultation, and other support for those entities pursuing federal workforce development grant funds.

Tribal entities seeking such assistance can contact:

**Government Relations Manager and Tribal Liaison**  
**Government Relations Office**  
**Washington State Employment Security Department**  
[esdpggovrelations@esd.wa.gov](mailto:esdpggovrelations@esd.wa.gov)

ESD has further developed a Tribal Resources page on the public-facing Workforce Professionals Center web site at <https://wpc.wa.gov/wswa/tribal>.

It is ESD's intent to foster the sharing of best practices and other information pertaining to tribal workforce needs through this web page. Organizations wishing to share information are encouraged to contact ESD's Tribal Liaison.

## **References:**

- Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) of 2014, Sections 3(24)(C) and 166
- [Training and Employment Guidance Letter \(TEGL\) 22-20](#); May 20, 2021

## **Website:**

[Workforce Professionals Center](#)

**Direct Inquiries To:**

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Employment Security Department  
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**Attachments:**

None.