Key Changes in the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act

The Workforce System:
- Applies one set of performance measures to core programs listed below
- Requires one Unified State Plan describing training, employment services, adult education and vocational rehabilitation through a collaborative, comprehensive system
- Reduces the number of required members on state and local workforce boards
  - State director of adult education and local adult managers have seats on the boards
- Strengthens alignment between core programs and labor markets and economic development regions
- Specifies authorized appropriation levels for each fiscal year 2015-2020
- Adds a minimum and maximum funding level to the dislocated worker formula beginning 2016

Training and Employment Services
- Eliminates the “sequence of services” and merges “core and intensive activities” into a combined “career services.”
- Emphasizes access to real-world training through on-the-job training, incumbent worker training, customized training, prior learning assessment, pay-for-performance training and industry or sector partnerships and career pathway strategies.
- Requires 75% of youth funding to support out-of-school youth with 20% prioritized for work-based activities

Job Corps
- Improves the procurement process for center operators
- Allows DOL to provide technical assistance to centers
- Improves data collection on operations and finance.

Adult Education
- Strengthens alignment of adult education with postsecondary and workforce activities
- Strengthens career pathways and integrated education and training
- Links English Literacy/Civics with integrated education and training
- Requires specific state leadership activities
  - Alignment of services with the workforce system
  - Quality professional development
  - Technical assistance to local providers
  - Monitoring and evaluation of local providers
- Requires that the local adult education plans be reviewed by the local workforce board to ensure alignment

State Vocational Rehabilitation Services
- Sets high expectations for individuals with disabilities with respect to employment
- Provides youth with disabilities the services and supports necessary to be successful in competitive, integrated employment