

Adult Education: A Big-Picture View

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Amanda Bergson-Shilcock
Director of Upskilling Policy
National Skills Coalition





The big picture

- ✓ **Pulling back the camera lens**
- ✓ **The environmental context**
- ✓ **Making our way to the table**
- ✓ **Bring your practitioner wisdom**
- ✓ **Take action!**



Pulling back the camera


Zooming out from the program level



What do these have in common?

- **Industry sector partnerships**
- **Regional economic development efforts**
- **Immigrant integration offices**
- **State postsecondary credential attainment goals**
- **State Longitudinal Data Systems (SLDS)**
- **Re-entry services**



A top-down view of several people's hands holding white puzzle pieces together in a circle. The people have diverse skin tones and are wearing professional attire like suits and blouses. The background is a blue and grey patterned carpet.

**They all need
adult education
as a partner.**

The environmental context

What does the landscape look like?





Congress and beyond

- ✓ **Federal budget**
- ✓ **Legislative reauthorizations and new proposals**
- ✓ **White House actions**
- ✓ **The immigration saga**





The FY 2018 budget: Belated but good news

Funding increases in FY18 omnibus

- **WIOA Title I (workforce) - \$80M**
- **WIOA Title II (adult education) - \$35M**
- **Apprenticeship - \$50M**
- **Perkins Career and Technical Education (CTE) Act - \$75M**



Now up: **FY19** budget

- **Level funding?**
- **Need for continued advocacy to Congress**
- **Separate appropriations bills vs. one big omnibus?**



Major legislation is pending reauthorization

- ✓ **Perkins Career and Technical Education Act**
- ✓ **Higher Education Act**
- ✓ **Farm Bill (includes SNAP Employment & Training)**



Perkins Act

- ✓ **Markup scheduled in Senate for this month**
- ✓ **Relevance for adult learners:**
 - ✓ **40% of Perkins funds go to postsecondary programs**
 - ✓ **Senator Reed's CTE for All proposal**



Higher Education Act (HEA)

- ✓ **Republican bill in House**
- ✓ **Relevance for adult learners:**
 - ✓ **Pell Grants**
 - ✓ **Senator Hassan's Gateway to Careers Act**



Farm Bill

- ✓ **Conservative bill in House; more mixed proposal in Senate**
- ✓ **Relevance for adult learners:**
 - ✓ **SNAP Employment & Training**
 - ✓ **Work requirements debate**



The White House weighs in



- ✓ **Executive Order issued April 2018**
- ✓ **Calls for work requirements, consolidation and elimination of antipoverty programs**





And then there's a little topic called immigration

- ✓ **Rep. Goodlatte bill**
- ✓ **Speaker Ryan bill**
- ✓ **“Queen of the Hill” resolution**



Anticipated “public charge” regulation

- ✓ **Still speculative at this point**
- ✓ **Would have enormous impact on legally authorized immigrants and their families, including their US citizen children**
- ✓ **Would count use of many public benefits as negative factors for immigrants when applying for green cards, to extend or change visas, or bring family to the US**
- ✓ **Education effects are under-discussed**

Learn more: <https://tinyurl.com/NSCPublicCharge>



Moving to the states...

- ✓ **Continued WIOA implementation**
- ✓ **Medicaid work requirements**
- ✓ **Postsecondary credential attainment goals**



**What does all
this mean for
adult educators
and learners?**



Let's get back to your role.



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Congress has spoken

- **WIOA is about alignment, career pathways, and collaboration across titles**
- **But what does that look like beyond compliance?**



**Probably
some things
you're
already
doing...**



**...and
others that
you may be
ready to
explore**



Beyond WIOA: **Making our way to the table**



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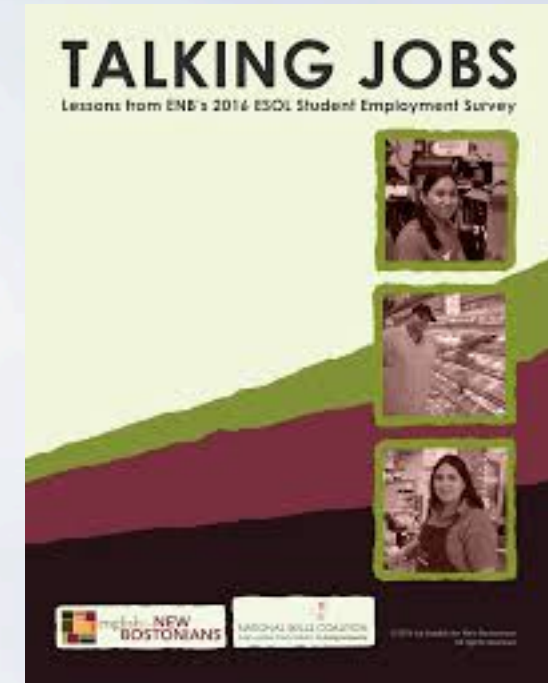
A need for adult education partners

- **Industry sector partnerships**
- **Regional economic development efforts**
- **Immigrant integration offices**
- **State postsecondary credential attainment goals**
- **State Longitudinal Data Systems (SLDS)**
- **Re-entry services**



Industry sector partnerships

- **Required under WIOA**
- **Employers increasingly recognize the need for adult education as part of upskilling**
- **Can also approach from the other side (learners' place of employment)**



Regional economic development

- **Business attraction and growth is about workforce**
- **Chambers of Commerce initiatives on workforce (Nashville; L.A.)**
- **Revitalizing older industrial communities (Chicago Council report)**



State and local immigrant integration offices

- **Six states have New Americans initiatives**
- **30 cities have mayoral Offices of Immigrant Affairs**
- **ESL is a commonly identified need, but some offices lack education/workforce expertise**



Postsecondary credential attainment

- **40 states have set goals**
- **No state will reach its goal without adult learners**
- **Resource: NSC fact sheets**

Middle-Skill Credentials and Immigrant Workers: Washington's Untapped Assets

A FACT SHEET

The Washington State Economy Has Robust Demand for Middle-Skill Workers. More than half of all jobs in Washington (51 percent) are middle-skill occupations that require more than a high school diploma, but not a four-year degree. Yet only 44 percent of Washington workers have been educated to the middle-skill level.¹

Middle-skill positions include jobs as carpenters, software developers, and personal care aides.² Individuals prepare for these occupations through a variety of pathways, including career and technical education programs, apprenticeships and other work-based learning opportunities, community colleges, and nonprofit or other on-site job-training providers.

Demand for workers with middle-skill credentials is anticipated to remain robust in Washington State, with 42 percent of new job openings between 2024-2028 expected to be at the middle-skill level.³

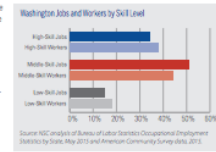
The data is clear that investing in skill building can ensure Washington's ability to meet that demand. Such an investment makes economic sense. A report from the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) calculates that each year of postsecondary education leads to an increased per capita output of between 4 and 7 percent.⁴

Recently, the state has established an ambitious goal for postsecondary credential attainment. By 2023, Washington aims to increase the percentage of state residents with a postsecondary credential to 70 percent.⁵ This clear, rigorous postsecondary attainment goal will help focus state policy and spending decisions on middle-skill opportunities and ensure a strong return on investment.

Immigrants are Part of Washington's Middle-Skill Solution

Washington State is home to approximately 1,000,000 immigrants, who comprise approximately 14 percent of the state's population.⁶ Foreign-born Washingtonians are much more likely to be of working age; almost 80 percent are between the ages of eighteen to twenty-four, compared to just 60 percent of native-born state residents. In addition, Washington immigrants have a notably higher labor force participation rate at 67.3 percent compared to 62.5 percent of native-born adults.

As a result, immigrants play an essential role in the Washington



labor market. Their impact is expected to continue growing; already, the share of immigrants in the state's population has more than doubled from 7 percent in 1990 to 14 percent today.⁷

However, immigrant Washingtonians have lower educational attainment, on average, than native-born workers. In order for Washington to capitalize on the full talents and abilities of immigrant residents, the state will need to facilitate their skill building.

Immigrants Could Contribute More if Washington Invested in Their Skills

While one-third of adult immigrants in Washington hold a bachelor's degree or higher, the majority of Washington immigrants have lower levels of formal education. In particular, 39 percent have a high school diploma or equivalent, and 24 percent have not finished high school.⁸

In addition, while a robust number of Washington immigrants are fluent in English, others are still building their English language skills. Overall, approximately 384,000 working-age Washington residents have limited English proficiency.⁹

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SLDS and beyond: Data as a tool

- **Adult education is included in ~30 states' SLDS**
- **Pathway evaluator tools can show adult learners' progress (and system bottlenecks)**
- **Advocates can push for more creative use of data (Minnesota DEED)**



Reentry initiatives

- **Fast-changing landscape (low unemployment; new awareness of opioid crisis)**
- **Occupational licensure initiative**
- **Getting creative: Kansas IET example**



NSC has tools to help

- **50-state policy scans**
- **Policy toolkits**
- **Research briefs and case studies**
- **State fact sheets**





Bringing practitioner wisdom into policy conversations



What do I mean by that?

- **Practitioners are the vertical integration between the policy on paper and the ground-level impact**
- **We can apply metacognitive skills to make connections between concrete experience and abstract policies**



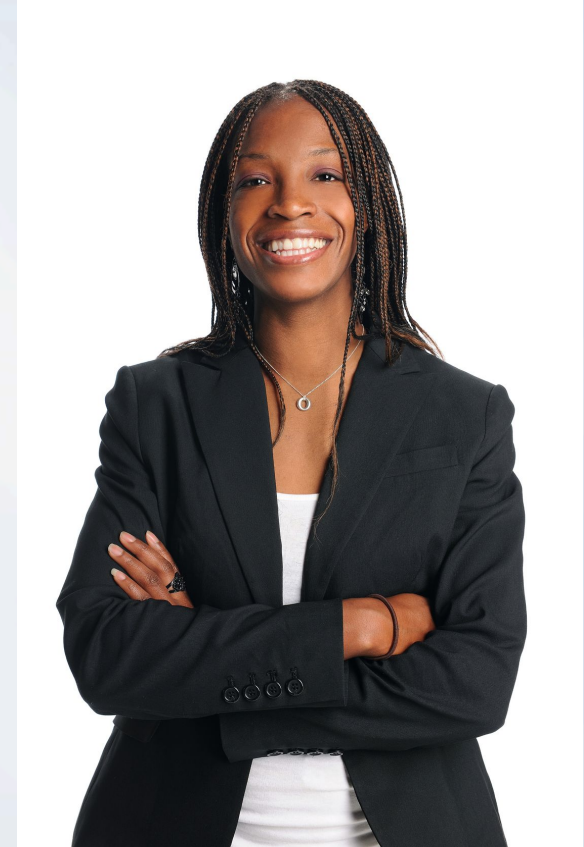
Bring your expertise to new tables

- **Who has a goal that adults can help them reach?**
- **Who is telling the stories that policymakers are reading?**



Bring your learners too!

- **The Change Agent**
- **In-person visits**
- **Constituent calls**
- **Letters and e-mails**



The bottom line

How you can take action





- 1. Tell Congress to #InvestInSkills**
- 2. Use NSC's state policy toolkits to advance good policies**
- 3. Be ready to submit comments on “Public Charge” regulation**



We're here to help

- ✓ **Strategic information and communications**
- ✓ **Peer learning and connections**
- ✓ **Policy development and assistance**
- ✓ **Advocacy tools**
- ✓ **Amplifying your voice**







Contact

Amanda Bergson-Shilcock

215-285-2860

AmandaBS@nationalskillscoalition.org



Contact

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