

# **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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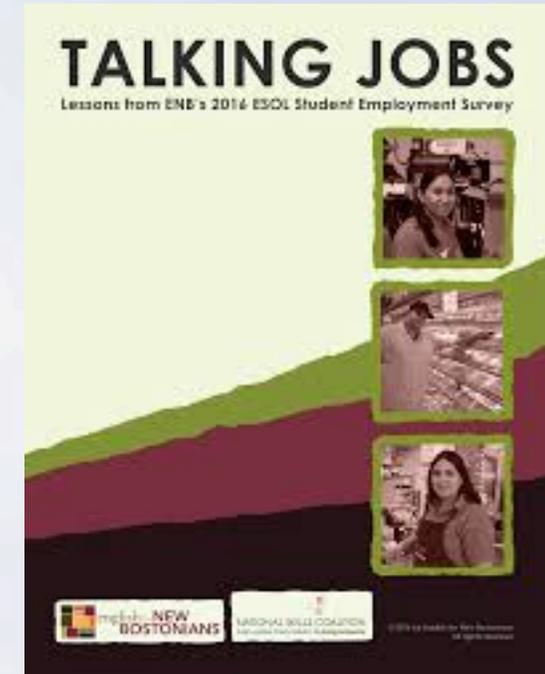
# **A need for adult education partners**

- **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.<sup>1</sup>

Middle-skill positions include jobs as carpenters, software developers, and personal care aides.<sup>2</sup> 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.<sup>3</sup>

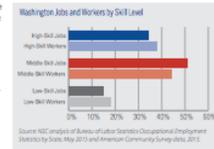
The data is clear that investing in skill building can ensure Washington's ability to meet that demand. Such an investment makes economic sense. A report from the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) calculates that each year of postsecondary education leads to an increased per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

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.<sup>5</sup> 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.<sup>6</sup> 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.<sup>7</sup>

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.<sup>8</sup>

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.<sup>9</sup>

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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**



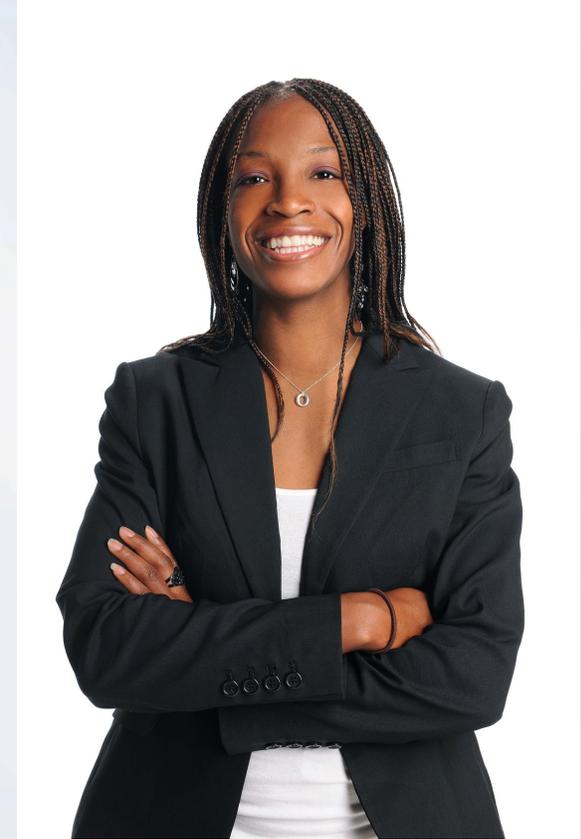
# Bring your expertise to new tables

- **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](mailto:AmandaBS@nationalskillscoalition.org)**



# Contact

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