



What is a Workforce Investment Board?

Local Workforce Investment Boards (WIBs), in partnership with the State Employment and Training Commission (SETC) – the state WIB, work to enhance the global competitiveness of New Jersey’s businesses by developing a world-class workforce.

The WIBs are business-led boards, serving a municipality, county or multi-county area. A WIB acts like a Board of Directors, to identify the needs of the local job market, leverage resources, oversee One-Stop Career Centers, and direct workforce investment programs in their area. We work in conjunction with economic development and related organizations to promote economic growth and the full utilization of the workforce.

WIBs are charged with integrating publicly funded workforce services and job training programs into a system that is flexible, seamless, accountable, and responsive to the needs of both workers and businesses.

Based on local community needs, WIBs define a vision, mission, and goals, as part of a strategic plan that establishes the local one-stop service delivery system to serve unemployed job seekers, businesses, incumbent workers looking for a better job, and young people entering the workforce. Since labor markets extend beyond county lines, contiguous WIBs also collaborate to facilitate regional initiatives.

In 1996, New Jersey Executive Order #36 created WIBs in New Jersey. Subsequently, the federal Workforce Investment Act of 1998 mandated them within all states and U.S. territories.

The Governor of New Jersey certifies the local WIBs and Chief Elected Officials in the Local Areas appoint WIB members to serve as volunteer board members. The majority of members must be private business representatives. Other required membership includes representatives from Organized Labor, Community-Based Organizations, Education, Human Services and others.

Newark Workforce Investment Board

The Newark Workforce Investment Board (NWIB) is a non-profit organization whose mission is to lead and empower the Newark workforce system by leveraging assets and resources to ensure the educational, professional and economic success of Newark residents and the prosperity of businesses. Created pursuant to the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) of 1998, the NWIB's role is to ensure that optimal investments are made in Newark to support workforce development, training, and job preparation for residents. The NWIB also engages businesses to link the services of the local workforce system with the needs of employers in the Newark region. To successfully accomplish this, the NWIB:

- Oversees WIA funds by driving investments based on industry needs
- Sets the strategic direction of Newark's One-Stop System
- Creates forums for analyzing and discussing critical workforce issues to determine the best implementation strategies
- Partners with State and Local elected officials to ensure NWIB efforts are aligned with the goals of the City of Newark
- Conducts labor market analysis to better assess labor demand and to advocate for employer and job-seeker needs
- Increases system accountability

In collaboration with our partners, the Newark Workforce Investment Board has several Joint Sub-Committees with the Essex County Workforce Investment Board

- Youth Investment Council
- Welfare-To-Work
- Disability
- Business Development
- Education and Literacy

The Newark Workforce investment Board also facilitates the following Committee:

- Newark One-Stop