

Office of Workforce Innovation
Governor's Reserve Funds Use
July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024

[Office of Workforce Innovation \(OWINN\)](#)

The Office of Workforce Innovation (OWINN) helps drive a skilled, diverse, and aligned workforce in the State of Nevada by promoting cooperation and collaboration among all entities focused on workforce development. OWINN was created via Executive Order in 2016 and codified into state statute NRS 232.965 in 2017 under former Governor Brian Sandoval. The OWINN team convenes community stakeholders, including K-12 and higher education, business and industry, social services, and training providers, to strengthen Nevada's workforce development system so all Nevadans have the skills they need to succeed, as a robust and resilient workforce benefits all Nevadans. OWINN is dedicated to equipping Nevadans with the soft and technical skills that are necessary to succeed, reducing the workforce shortage, and diversifying the economy through workforce development programs that are aligned with regional in-demand occupations. To accomplish these goals, OWINN convenes and collaborates with the community, uses data-driven research to identify best practices, and implements programming that builds a Nevada that works for everyone.

[Governor's Workforce Development Board, WIOA State Plan, and GWDB Strategic Plan](#)

The Governor's Workforce Development Board (GWDB) serves as the primary convener for industry, labor, and government leaders dedicated to innovating workforce development for the State of Nevada through examining the statewide workforce development system, creating the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) State Plan, and recommending workforce development policy improvements to the Governor's Office, Office of Workforce Innovation (OWINN), Nevada Legislature, and all relevant workforce stakeholders. Regular topics discussed by the Board include the local workforce development boards, WIOA core partners performance, industry sector councils, identification of barriers to employment (childcare, transportation, affordable housing), K-12 career and technical education, postsecondary education, private sector workforce needs, career pathway development, economic development, alignment of statewide workforce programs, supportive services, rural workforce development, and many other areas. The GWDB is codified by NRS 232.935 and administered by OWINN. The GWDB's 33 members are Governor appointed and a majority represent businesses from various industry sectors, along with state and local elected officials, organized labor representatives, and administrators of the State's WIOA core programs.

A primary responsibility of the Governor's Workforce Development Board (GWDB) is to write the WIOA State Plan and submit it to the U.S. Department of Labor and U.S. Department of Education every four years, with modifications every two years. Sections within the WIOA State Plan include strategic planning, operational planning, coordination of programs, and program-specific reporting requirements. The three goals of the WIOA State Plan are to 1) increase engagement with groups

who have high unemployment and/or low labor force participation, 2) increase the operational alignment of services among required workforce development partners, and 3) improve collaboration between required workforce development partners with common processes and systems.

The WIOA State Plan was developed over the past year by a working group under the GWDB that was led by the WIOA Title II State Director, and Adult Education Program Supervisor of the Department of Education. Working group contributors represented diverse agencies, including, Nevadaworks, Workforce Connections, DETR, the Nevada Department of Health and Human Services Division of Welfare and Supportive Services, the Office of Workforce Innovation, and GWDB leadership. Additionally, statewide partners such as the Governor's Office of Economic Development, Office of Science, Innovation, and Technology, the Office of the Labor Commissioner, and others provided insight for the plan to strengthen its content and reflect a cohesive workforce vision. Once drafted in September 2023, the WIOA State Plan underwent a rigorous review process that began in October 2023, including evaluations from the GWDB, the Governor's Office, key stakeholder agencies, and a thirty-day public comment period.

After submitting the WIOA State Plan, GWDB Chair Hugh Anderson and Vice Chair Ken Evans created a task force of business Board members representing various sectors and industries and State agencies to draft the first GWDB strategic plan. The vision for the strategic plan was to build upon the goals set forth in the WIOA State Plan and add emphasis on private and public sector alignment and collaboration for workforce development. The GWDB Strategic Plan is intended to be much more concise and actionable than the WIOA State Plan. The three goals of the GWDB Strategic Plan are to 1) mitigate workforce and learning barriers for underserved Nevadans with low labor force participation and high unemployment rates, 2) promote awareness and engagement of the Nevada's businesses with the public workforce system, and 3) align the Nevada workforce system among education, economic development, and sector partners. The initial draft of the GWDB Strategic Plan was created by the task force in March 2024 following the WIOA State Plan submission. The draft underwent extensive review from over 75 partners during April 2024. After revisions were made following the stakeholder engagement process, the final draft was presented to the Governor's office in May 2024. The Governor presented his letter of support to the GWDB in June 2024, thus finalizing the plan and turning over into the implementation of stage.

NPWR

The Nevada P-20 to Workforce Research Data System (NPWR) is a state-of-the-art research tool that provides Nevadans with unparalleled access to the knowledge needed to understand the trends shaping our state's education and workforce outcomes. NPWR was built on a federated system that merges data across participating agencies using a sophisticated matching algorithm. NPWR leaves all private data behind the existing firewalls of each agency and de-identifies all data during the matching process. Using this de-identified and matched data, NPWR generates reports from participating agencies for the purposes of better understanding the trends shaping Nevada's education and workforce outcomes.

NPWR is truly a statewide collaboration, with the NPWR Advisory Committee made up of the data-sharing partners and established to assist in the support of the statewide longitudinal system. These data-sharing partners include Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation (DETR) for wage data and Title I and Title III (onboarding); Nevada Department of Education (NDE) for Adult Education and early childhood data; Nevada System of Higher Education (NSHE); Nevada Department of Motor Vehicles (Nevada DMV) for matching only; Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) for early childhood information (at the moment that is collected through NDE, but working towards sharing more data); Nevada Department of Corrections (NDOC); Nevada Department of Veteran Services (NDVS); Department of Business and Industry (B&I) for apprenticeship data.

In November 2023, the first NPWR Strategic Plan was approved by the NPWR Advisory Committee. This document is to act as the goals and guide for the State of Nevada's P-20W longitudinal data system, known as NPWR, for the near future. The purpose of this plan is to help address gaps and resources that can help NPWR grow to become a more valuable tool to the entire State, through modernization efforts and bringing resources and talent in-state to work to help our citizens, departments, researchers, and resources as a whole. The three goals of the NPWR Strategic Plan:



NPWR Structure

Add dedicated analysts
Add dedicated data integration specialist
Dedicated NPWR server



Modernize

Increase data from current partners and add new partners
Update website
Improve portal process for researchers



Funding

Target State, Federal and Private funding

Attached is a copy of the NPWR Strategic Plan.

Due to the success in the first year, in December 2023, OWINN awarded the second round of NPWR Research Grant projects, funded through WIOA Governor's Reserve. NPWR awarded nine projects at a total of \$331,477.71. The 2024 funded projects were:

Workforce and Economic Development

- Assessing Workforce Availability and Associated Skill Sets Needed to Close Gaps in the Value Network and Supply Chain of Nevada's Healthcare Industry Sector; University Center for Economic Development; University of Nevada, Reno
- The Potential Economic and Fiscal Benefits of Connecting Over 30,000 Disconnected Youth in Nevada to Education or Employment by 2030; Consultant to/representing Workforce

Connections, Southern Nevada's Local Workforce Development Board

- AI-Enhanced Education in Nevada and its Transformative Impact on Workforce Development, Employment Prospects, and Tomorrow's Job Market Proficiencies ; Center for Migration, Demography and Population Studies; University of Nevada, Las Vegas
- Care Workers in Nevada: A Crisis Now and in the Future; The Lincy Institute
- The Dynamics of Labor Force Participation – A Statewide Analysis and Survey in a Post-Pandemic Nevada; Kenny Guinn Center for Policy Priorities & Center for Business and Economic Research; University of Nevada, Las Vegas

Education

- Strengthening Nevada's PK-20 Teacher Pipeline: An Assessment to Meet Workforce Projections; Clark County Education Association
- An Exploratory Study of Two Postsecondary Policies and Student Outcomes in Nevada; Department of Educational Psychology, Leadership, and Higher Education; University of Nevada, Las Vegas
- Nevada Goes to College: A Statistical Portrait of Higher Education Enrollment and Degree Attainment of Minoritized Students in Field of Education; College of Education and Human Development; University of Nevada, Reno

Students

- An Examination of Novice Teacher Career Persistence Trends; Elizabeth Hofschulte Collins, MS; Doctoral Fellow in Teacher Preparation and Retention, National Institute for the Advancement of Education; University of Nevada, Las Vegas

The 2023 NPWR Research Forums were held on December 5, 2023 at the University of Nevada, Reno (UNR) and rescheduled on February 29, 2024 at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV). These forums were the opportunity for the 2023 NPWR Research Grant awardees to share their projects and findings to the community. The NPWR Strategic Plan was also presented to the attendees and was the first place it was made publicly available. During the UNLV Forum, the 2024 NPWR Research Grant awardees were also announced. The forums were funded through WIOA Governor's Reserve.

Attached is a copy of the NPWR Research Forum program.

OWINN Grants

Project SANDI:

The fourth year for Project SANDI (Supporting and Advancing Nevada's Dislocated Individuals) has been an exciting and cooperative time that includes the Nevada State Higher of Education Colleges, outside training providers, and internal Nevada partners. Over 1,900 participants have been supported now through the trainings offered with all the partners. This year has also seen a

concentrated effort to increase opportunities specifically for veteran students.

H-1B:

In the past year, the H1-B Rural Healthcare grant has exceeded the grant goal of serving 130 participants, with time still remaining on the grant to continue to address the healthcare need. As of June 2024, the grant served a total of 144 participants.

ANAA:

The key grant goals worked on this year focused on OWINN working with the State Apprenticeship Council Director, under the Labor Commissioner at the Nevada Department of Business & Industry (B&I) to realign the grant to be able to assist more apprentices in the non-traditional apprenticeships of education, healthcare and IT.

SAE 2020:

The key goal that OWINN accomplished in the final year of this grant was developing a webpage to update information for the public through a website around apprenticeship, which was completed by The Abbi Agency to lead to more widespread awareness of apprenticeship programs in the state, and not limited to those offered by OWINN. OWINN was in discussion with State Apprenticeship Director Toni Giddens on this aspect.