**PWDA Policy Fellowship - Policy Statement**

**Group 2 - Empowerment & Policy Catalysts**

**Policy Statement:**

**What is the problem?:** The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) allows Adult and Dislocated Worker funding to be spent on supportive services for participants when necessary for participation in employment and training activities. However, WIOA prohibits the use of funding to provide supportive services, regardless of an individual’s need, during the follow-up period once a participant obtains a job.

**Why does it matter?:** Job seekers often face barriers to both obtaining and *retaining* employment, including access to reliable transportation, childcare, clothing/uniforms, and other financial expenses. Additional flexibility to provide supportive services during a transition period after a participant obtains employment would support longer-term employment retention for job seekers with supportive services needs.

**What is the “ask”? What are you proposing?:** As a part of WIOA reauthorization, Congress should revise the legislation to allow for the provision of supportive services for at least 90 days during the follow-up period for Adult and Dislocated Workers after obtaining employment. The Pennsylvania Governor could also use WIOA set-aside funds to pilot supportive service programming during the WIOA follow-up period to build evidence of how these services can support job retention.

**What data do you have to support your opinion?**

US Census Data

Commonwealth Workforce Development System (CWDS)

WIOA Performance Data

[USDOL Chief Evaluation Office - WIOA Research Portfolio](https://www.dol.gov/agencies/oasp/evaluation/completedstudies/Workforce-Innovation-Opportunity-Act-WIOA-Research-Portfolio-Project)