**Select Final Topic (based on PWDA Policy Interest Topics):**

* Serving Vulnerable Populations

 **In thinking about your topic, where do you think your group could have the most impact?**

* In policy
* Problem Statement: How to make the workforce system more reflective of the vulnerable populations they serve

**How would you define the problem?**

* Lack of access
* Messaging and communication
* Workforce system staff not reflective of the communities they serve
* Vulnerable populations feeling judged or inferior

**What data do you have to support your opinion? Can be programmatic, research from the field, etc.**

* Joint Report
* Inclusive Work: Marginalized populations in the workforce of the future (<https://www2.deloitte.com/us/en/insights/focus/technology-and-the-future-of-work/future-of-the-workforce-vulnerable-populations.html>)
* Employment Help for the Most Vulnerable: Adapting the Individual Placement and Support Model in a Crisis (<https://www.mdrc.org/publication/employment-help-most-vulnerable-adapting-individual-placement-and-support-model-crisis>)

 **If you do not have data, what can you do to get it?**

* Focus groups of vulnerable populations

• **Draft a short paragraph or “policy statement” that describes:**

* What is the problem
* Why does it matter
* What is the “ask”? What are you proposing?

 **What is the problem?** Often times the workforce development system is not reflective of the vulnerable populations they serve making it challenging to reach those the system is intended to serve. The workforce system is designed in theory to help vulnerable populations as WIOA specifically calls out marginalized groups. However, the workforce system lacks the ability to fully serve those vulnerable population in implementation and holistically.

**Why does it matter?**

* Ensuring employers have workers (Diversifying the talent pipeline)
* Increase the skills and wages of vulnerable population
* Positive impact on the socio-economic community

**What is the “ask”? What are you proposing?**

* Expand the foundation and principles (in law) of WIOA for the holistic needs of those with multiple barriers
* Increase supportive services-filling the gaps of current supportive services
* Leverage what workers already know by building on the skills workers already have and targeting occupations with similar skill profiles