

6/19/13 Legislative and Policy Update

- 2013 was a big year for workforce at the statehouse
- **Colorado Legislative Session.** Of 9 bills CWDC was interested in 8 were signed. A few to note:
 - **HB13-1004** passed with an appropriation of \$2.4M to fund a program administered by the CDHS in partnership with CDLE and OEDIT. The "Re-Hire Colorado" program will provide employment opportunities for approximately 350 individuals who have multiple barriers to employment. The program will reduce the risk to employers of giving these individuals a chance to prove themselves by covering at least part of their wages for a period of time, not to exceed six months, while the person gains work experience and the employer determines if the job and the person are a good match. There is no requirement that the person be hired following the work experience period, however the program will work to ensure this occurs as much as possible. The program will be provided through local organizations selected through an RFP, the program will also seek a statewide payroll provider to reduce the burden on the employer and the program operator. [shorten as much as you'd like]
 - **HB 13-1165** creates a manufacturing career pathway. The CWDC and the Colorado Community College System's Career and Technical Education (CTE) program will be critical in the implementation of this legislation. We are excited about this as it will build upon 8 regions that identified manufacturing career pathways.
 - We will provide a summary with a link to all legislation of interest to the CWDC in the July pre-meeting and on the CWDC website.
- **Day at the Capitol.** Over the past few years CWDC has held a day at the capitol. Next year we are going to work to find ways to engage legislators and committees in new ways. If you are interested in being a part of this- let staff know!
- **National update.** The back and forth in DC continues. On June 7, the House Education and the Workforce Committee "marked-up" the Workforce Investment Improvement Act of 2012 (HR 4297), a bill to reauthorize the Workforce Investment Act (WIA). The bill was reported out of committee on a party-line vote. Two important pieces to note about this bill:
 - As mentioned in April, the bill consolidates more than two dozen existing federal workforce programs (including current WIA formula and national programs, Wagner-Peyser Employment Services, SNAP E&T, Job Corps, and others) into a single \$6 billion Workforce Investment Fund, which would be allocated to states and localities by formula.
 - Reduces the governor's set-aside for statewide activities from 15 percent to 5 percent of a state's Workforce Investment Fund allotment (CWDC's primary budget in the past). A 5% allotment was included in 2011 and 2012 appropriations has greatly impacted the amount of discretionary funding available for innovative work supported and carried out by the CWDC.
- The Policy and Legislative Committee will likely reach out to you about how you can help urge Congress to reinstate the full 15 percent Set-Aside in FY14 appropriations bills or in any FY14 Continuing Resolution.
- Also, between now and the next legislative session we are going to work to revamp the policy and legislative committee. **Get involved!**