



National  
Urban League

*Empowering Communities.  
Changing Lives.*

### **National Urban League National Urban League (NUL) Recommendation for Reauthorization of the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) (In Brief)**

- Federal investment in workforce development has declined precipitously during the past 40 years. The Congress and Administration during the past 8 years have let the Workforce Investment Act suffer a death of many small cuts. The current \$2-3 billion program bears little resemblance to the \$9 billion spent in the early 1970s. Overall funding for WIA must return to pre-1980 days.
- The reauthorization of WIA must become a front-burner issue.
- Use the Demonstration funds at DOL to fund proven and successful models of workforce training like the National Urban League's Urban Youth Empowerment Program (UYEP).
- Re-fund the Summer Youth Employment Program at \$3 billion.
- More constructively use national intermediaries of demonstrated effectiveness in the Adult and Youth programs of WIA by instructing States/Cities to include them in local operating plans and One-Stop systems as funded entities.
- A percentage of any infrastructure monies should be directed to job training, job placement and job preparation for structurally unemployed, disadvantaged persons.
- Reporting and Performance Management Systems need to be re-structured so that services and outcomes can be tracked for equitable service and diversity purposes.
- Pre-Apprenticeship Programs need to be upgraded with adequate funding to provide better access to unions and higher paying jobs.
- Require more coordination with the Department of Education to ensure that post-secondary education is a real option for participants in "second chance" workforce development programs.
- Public Service Employment as a permanent option for cyclical unemployment needs to be added back to the workforce development system and WIA funding.