In January 2015, the United States Department of Labor (DOL) Employment and Training Administration (ETA) awarded a Cooperative Agreement to The United States Conference of Mayors (USCM) and the following Inter-Governmental Organizations (IGOs): the National Association of Counties (NACO), the National Association of State Workforce Agencies (NASWA), the National Governors’ Association (NGA), the National League of Cities (NLC), the National Association of Workforce Boards (NAWB) and the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL). This Cooperative Agreement is designed to gain input from Conference of Mayors’ members to develop a better understanding of the issues and needs of mayors and to coordinate appropriate technical assistance as the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) is implemented nationally.

There are three primary objectives for this effort:

1. Provide information and feedback from the state and local workforce development system and its partners regarding issues of concern and challenges faced in implementing provisions of the new WIOA and resulting technical assistance needs.
2. Provide documentation of important developments and successful practices that can be highlighted and shared across the system to assist in timely implementation of the provisions of WIOA.
3. Develop and deliver comprehensive technical assistance in coordination with ETA and other intergovernmental organizations representing the variety of stakeholder interests, to address the needs identified by states and local areas.