

INCREASING INTEGRATION BETWEEN TANF AND WIOA

WHEREAS, the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program provides temporary financial assistance and support services to low-income families with eligibility determined state-by-state and for no more than 60 months total; and

WHEREAS, the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) was signed in 2014 by former-President Obama to help adult, youth and dislocated job-seekers access education, training and support services needed to be successful in the workforce and attractive to employers; and

WHEREAS, TANF recipients are primarily single women with children under the age of 18 and WIOA gives priority to low-income individuals; and

WHEREAS, granting TANF recipients the opportunity to gain vocational education and job-relevant experiences would allow low-income families better access to good paying jobs and could afford them the ability to wean themselves off TANF funds; and

WHEREAS, though TANF does allow vocational education training and employment education there are limitations to amount of workforce preparation that can be attained through TANF programs by recipients; and

WHEREAS, a greater integration of TANF and WIOA could serve to advance the missions of both programs by helping needy families gain self-sufficiency through financial assistance paired with job preparedness programs; and

WHEREAS, government resources could be better spent by streamlining tools to support common programs for TANF recipients and WIOA participants and developing shared data systems; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors supports and calls for the immediate integration of programs and services currently held separately between TANF and WIOA; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, TANF and WIOA integrate and consolidate to create more streamlined systems to simplify and better serve low-income American families.