

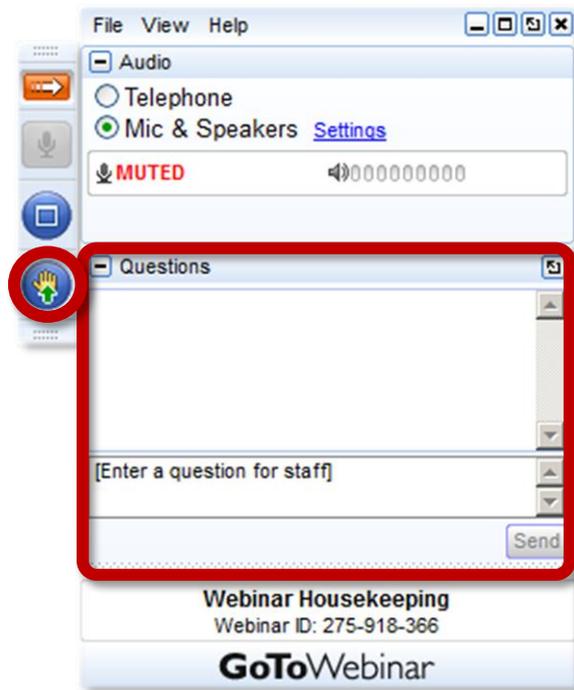


**Funders Together**  
TO END HOMELESSNESS

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# ***The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act & Philanthropy***

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# *Our Panelists*

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**Rob Podlogar**

National Director, Siemer Institute for Family Stability



**Melissa Young**

National Initiatives of Poverty & Economic Opportunity,  
Heartland Alliance

# *The Intersection of Employment and Homelessness*

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- United Way is the leader in bringing together philanthropists within the community to bring awareness to critical issues.
- The lack of employment for our targeted population creates an increased risk of homelessness.
- We need to highlight programs that can help support our work.

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# ***The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act & Philanthropy***

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# The Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act & Philanthropy

February 2016

Funders Together to End  
Homelessness

# National Initiatives on Poverty & Economic Opportunity

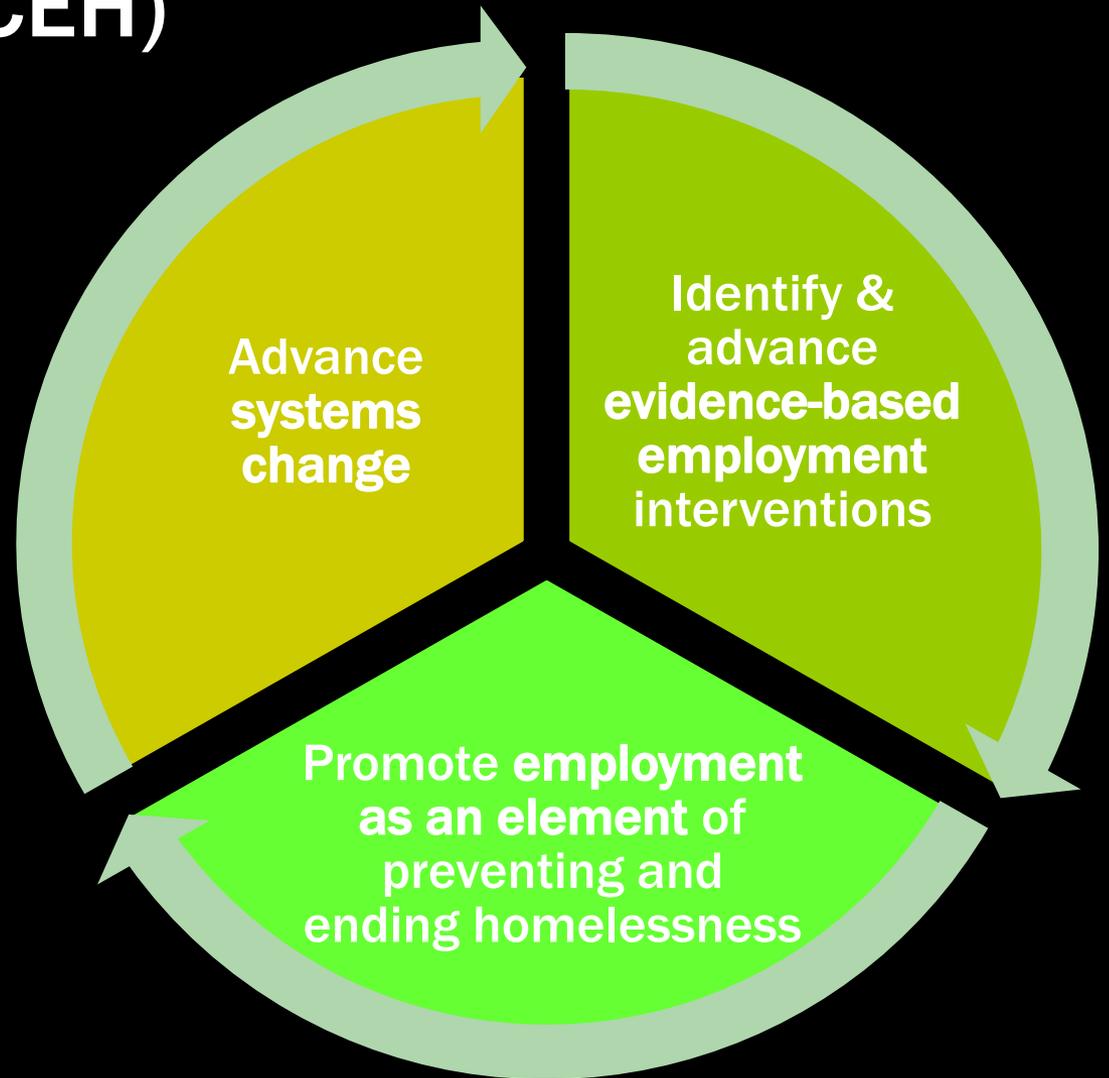
We are dedicated to ending chronic unemployment & poverty.

We work at the intersection of practice, policy, and research to catalyze change that is practical, informed by evidence and grounded in experience.

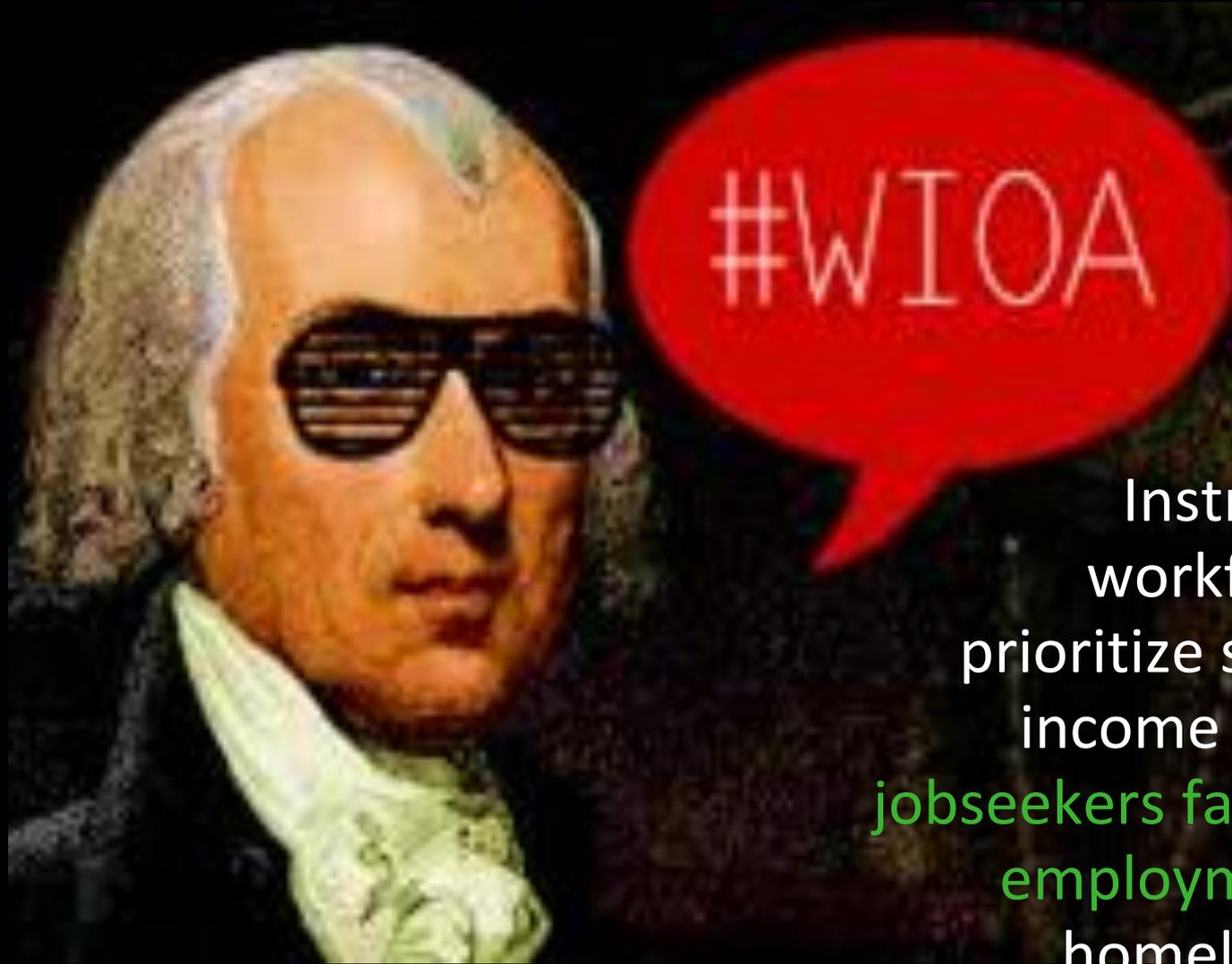


# National Center on **Employment & Homelessness** (NCEH)

Through NCEH, we work to ensure that that **employment in quality jobs** is a key element in the fight to prevent and end homelessness.



# Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act



Instructs the public workforce system to prioritize services for low income individuals and jobseekers facing barriers to employment - including homeless jobseekers.

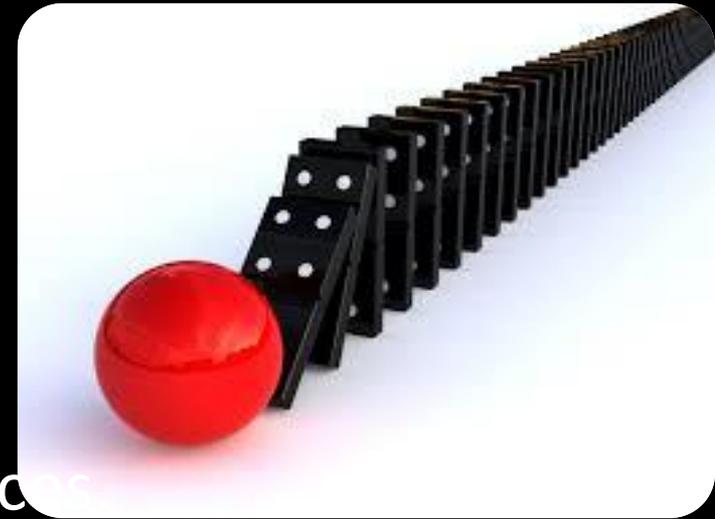
# WIOA's Definition of Homeless



Inclusive of adults, youth, and families who **might not be considered homeless under other definitions.** Includes people who are doubled up or living in a hotel or motel due to lack of alternative accommodations.

# WIOA: A Catalyst to Address the Employment Needs of Homeless Jobseekers

- Places a priority on serving adults and youth facing barriers to employment.
- Eliminates sequence of services.
- Changes performance measures.
- Supports intensive employment services
- WIOA state and local plans must analyze data on populations facing barriers and say how they will serve them.



# WIOA: What's Happening Now

- **April 1, 2016:** States must have their WIOA State Plans submitted to USDOL for review.
- Up to **states** to determine when regional or local plans must be submitted to the state.
- **June, 2016:** USDOL releases final WIOA rules.



# Advancing Access to Workforce Services through WIOA Requires Many Stakeholders

Everyone has a role to play in  
WIOA Planning & Implementation.  
What's yours?



Advocates



Community-  
Based Service  
Providers



Public System  
Leaders



Philanthropy

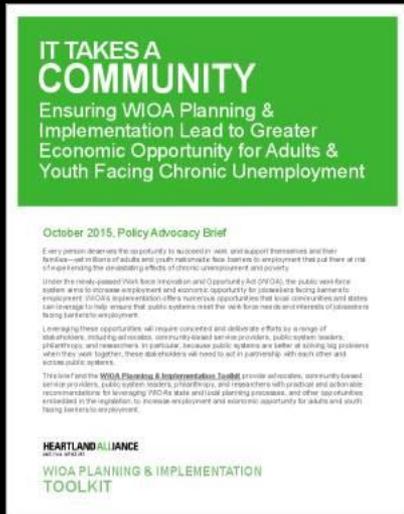


Researchers

Learn more: [bit.ly/WIOAToolkit](http://bit.ly/WIOAToolkit)

# WIOA Planning & Implementation Toolkit

Shows how you can help ensure WIOA **increases employment & economic opportunity** for jobseekers facing barriers, including homeless jobseekers.



...and more!

See it all here: [bit.ly/WIOAtoolkit](http://bit.ly/WIOAtoolkit)

# How You Can Shape WIOA

Work to **impact** these levers things in your community:

- 1. Get the facts.** Use data and information to identify scope, scale, and need of individuals in your community.
- 2. Make sure services match needs.** Align resources and employment and service strategies with needs of individuals in your community.
- 3. Bring together all needed public partners.** Plan with public systems to maximize resources and leverage strengths.
- 4. Ensure system accountability and improvement.** Create accountability mechanisms, evaluate efforts and revisit goals.

# WIOA Implementation Goal #1: Leverage Data

Does my community have a good grasp on the scope, scale, and workforce needs of homeless jobseekers?

- **Be a squeaky wheel.** Make data gathering and analysis regarding homeless jobseekers a priority.
- Fund projects focused on unpacking data about **homeless jobseeker needs** and presenting it in easy-to-understand ways.
- **Think long term.** Support data improvement and integration efforts among public systems.

# WIOA Implementation Goal #2: Align Resources & Strategies

Do my  
community's  
available  
workforce services  
and supports for  
homeless  
jobseekers meet  
their needs?

- **Promote asset/service mapping.** Encourage robust asset mapping of services and gaps.
- **Be a convener.** Bring a range of stakeholders to the asset mapping process, including homeless jobseekers.
- **Leverage experts.** Help identify best and promising workforce strategies for homeless jobseekers.

# WIOA Implementation Goal #3: Partner Effectively

How can state planning efforts benefit homeless jobseekers in my state?

- **It takes team work to make a dream work.** Promote robust local planning among public systems - HUD funded employment services and other systems (TANF, SNAP E&T) that can benefit homeless jobseekers
- **Host work groups** with public system leaders to engage in planning.
- Support **cross-system** training.

# Robust Local Planning Can Benefit Homeless Jobseekers in Important Ways

- Implement **evidence-based employment strategies**.
- Improve **referral processes** between systems.
- Spur **innovative system coordination** ideas.
- Use existing **resources and capacity** more effectively.



# WIOA Implementation Goal #4: Ensure Accountability & Monitor Efforts

How can my community and state intentionally prioritize homeless jobseekers and maintain our focus over time?

- **#PrioritiesMatter.** Urge local plans to prioritize homeless jobseekers and create benchmarks.
- Fund development of **Plans to End Homelessness** that address employment needs of homeless jobseekers.
- **Monitor.** Support and inform evaluations of WIOA progress - meet regularly with system leaders.

# Thank You!

E-news:

<http://bit.ly/Nle-news>

Email:

[myoung@heartlandalliance.org](mailto:myoung@heartlandalliance.org)

[ni@heartlandalliance.org](mailto:ni@heartlandalliance.org)



[@Nlheartland](https://twitter.com/Nlheartland)



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**HEARTLAND ALLIANCE**

NATIONAL INITIATIVES

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# Q&A

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# *Funders Together Membership*

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Join 175 foundations and United Ways working to support strategic, innovative, and effective solutions to end homelessness.

- Online Resources
  - Funders Toolkit
  - Featured Member Profiles
  - Sample tools such a presentations and one-pagers
- Connect with Your Peers
- Webinars
- Join a Regional Network

**Interested in Joining? Contact Katie McGonagle at [Katie@funderstogether.org](mailto:Katie@funderstogether.org)**

# *Questions For Our Panelists?*

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Rob Podlogar

Rob.Podlogar@uwcentralohio.org

Melissa Young

Myoung@heartlandalliance.org

# *Thanks for Tuning In!*

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89 South Street, Suite 803  
Boston, MA 02111  
617.245.0314  
[www.funderstogether.org](http://www.funderstogether.org)

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