

WIA 15 Percent Set-Aside Talking Points

- NGA urges Congress to reinstate the full 15 percent Set-Aside in FY14 appropriations bills or in any FY14 Continuing Resolution.
- Bicameral, bipartisan support for reestablishing the set-aside is evident. In the FY 2013 appropriations process, both the Senate and House proposed set-aside restoration. For the first time in years, the President also proposed partial restoration to the set-aside as part of his FY 2014 budget.
- NGA Education and Workforce Committee Workforce Investment Act (“WIA”) Set-Aside policy:
 - *Champion state-led innovations and avoid unfunded mandates by maintaining the 15 percent set-aside for statewide activities.*
- WIA authorizes governors to reserve 15 percent of formula funding under Title I of the act to carry out statewide employment and training activities for youth, adults and dislocated workers.
- Many states have used the WIA Set Aside funding to support state and local projects focused on:
 - green technology
 - workforce innovation
 - employment programs for veterans
 - support for at-risk populations
- Governors are required by statute to conduct certain activities with WIA Set- Aside funding and are given the authority to use any remaining funding for initiatives and innovations that address state-specific needs.
- The WIA Set-Aside enables governors to act responsively to the unique employment and workforce conditions of their states, making it a powerful tool in these uncertain economic times.
- As leaders of their states, governors are uniquely positioned to innovate and advance systemic workforce development initiatives.