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**Subject:** Federal Government Changes its Approach to Workforce Development

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November 20, 2014

## Federal Government Changes its Approach to Workforce Development

By **Jennifer Ginn**, *CSG Associate Editor*

The language of workforce development is changing and the federal government's shift in focus presents both some big opportunities and challenges for states. In July, President Obama signed the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act—also known as WIOA. It was a reauthorization of the legislation formerly known as the Workforce Investment Act of 1998. "The act is designed to improve services to employers and promote work-based training," said Robert Kight, director of Adult Services and Workforce Systems for the U.S. Department of Labor. He was one of the featured speakers at a recent CSG eCademy session, "Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act: An Emphasis on Career Pathways."

[Read the full article here.](#)

## Getting Out the Vote Overseas

By **Mary Branham**, *CSG Managing Editor*

The new advertising campaign for the Federal Voting Assistance Program makes clear its mission for military and civilian voters living overseas: "Americans make small votes every day and we want to make sure that you get your most important vote home." The program, a part of the U.S. Department of Defense, is using that campaign, in addition to an active social media presence and other efforts, to spread the word about the resources it is providing for citizens living overseas, according to Scott Wiedmann, the Federal Voting Assistance Program's director of communications.

[Read the full article here.](#)

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Conrad Hotel, New York,  
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## Specialized Courts an Option For Veterans in Criminal Justice System

By **Courtney Harris**, *CSG Graduate Fellow*

U.S. veterans involved in the justice system face unique challenges. **Since 2008**, court officials have begun to step in to prevent jail time for veterans suffering from mental health disorders. Judge Robert Russell of Buffalo, N.Y., has offered one solution—specialized veterans treatment court.

[Read the full article here.](#)

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