



OFFICE OF THE STATE AUDITOR



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December 7, 2020

Greater Return on Investment for Workforce Development Training Funds?

DENVER—A new performance audit by the Office of the State Auditor (OSA) found that the State may not be realizing a return on its investment for some Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) program participants. The WIOA program, which is administered at the state level by the Department of Labor and Employment and implemented at the local level by 57 workforce development centers located around the state, provides funding for career training and support services for adults, dislocated workers, and youth.

The audit found that 10 of the 75 participants sampled did not complete their WIOA-funded training and 16 participants did not achieve employment in the field of training within a year of exiting the program. Based on these results, the audit estimated that between \$1.61 million and \$2.78 million of the \$6.3 million spent on the 2,247 participants from whom the sample was chosen may not show a good return on investment.

“Maximizing the State’s use of WIOA funds is even more important given the increase in Colorado’s unemployment rate due to the COVID-19 pandemic and decreasing federal funds for the program,” said Nina Frant, Legislative Audit Manager.

The audit makes two recommendations.

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The full report is available online at www.colorado.gov/auditor.

About the Office of the State Auditor (OSA)

Under the direction of the State Auditor, the OSA is the State's nonpartisan, independent external auditor with broad authority to audit state agencies, departments, institutions of higher education, and the Judicial and Legislative Branches. The OSA also conducts evaluations of the State's tax expenditures (e.g., credits, exemptions, deductions) established in statute, administers a fraud reporting hotline, and tracks about 4,000 Colorado local governments for compliance with the Local Government Audit Law. The OSA's professional staff serve the people of Colorado by addressing relevant public issues through high-quality, objective audits, evaluations, and other work products that promote accountability and positive change in government.

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