# **WIOA Opportunities**

## Breaking Down Silos - Idaho Launch

The [Idaho Workforce Development Council](https://wdc.idaho.gov/) (WDC) is the State Workforce Development Board and an independent office under the Governor. They brought partners together to give all Idahoans access to labor market information and training support.

### Idaho Launch

The WDC sought to:

* address program silos,
* match training programs with business needs,
* and make training funds more widely available to all Idahoans, including those displaced by the COVID-19 pandemic and those who want to make a career change.

To meet these goals, they created [Idaho Launch](https://idaholaunch.com/) to provide access to research, skills assessments, and training funds.

The Idaho Workforce Development Council approved and committed $2 million to the Idaho Launch project. The WDC surveyed 800 employers about hiring plans and skills needed to fill open and upcoming positions. They then interviewed training providers to match current course offerings to in-demand skills. This information was all used to create the Idaho launch website, where visitors can access:

* Research
* By region, industry, skillset, and training opportunity
* Skills Synch
* Users can match skills with employer needs and discover industries they may not have considered
* Training funds
* Website visitors can apply to access training funds. Course fees can be funded up to 100% (through a mixture of State, Federal, and CARES act funds.)

Idaho launch also created a [toolkit](https://idaholaunch.com/toolkit/) specifically for partners, which outlines the goals for Idaho Launch, as well as the services that job-seekers and all Idahoans in search of training can access. The toolkit also allows access to branding and marketing materials, including print and digital flyers and short content that can be easily shared across social media.

### Key Considerations for Replication

There are few reasons for the success of projects like Idaho Launch:

* Fewer Silos
* The WDC’s affiliation with the office of the Governor means that there is more opportunity for workforce partners to collaborate on an equal footing. Silos are not supported by leadership.
* Deliberate Collaboration
* The Workforce Development Council has used their Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the Idaho American Job Center Network as an opportunity to define partner collaboration.
* Leadership by the Council (Board)
* In Idaho, there has been strong executive leadership to ensure compliance with WIOA, but also to ensure that industry representatives are taking the lead on the Council. Idaho Launch was created by the Council to ensure both that Idahoans have access to training and that the talent pipeline for industry matches business needs.
* Funding
* CARES Act funding was leveraged for Idaho Launch, but state funds were also used. Blending funding streams and pooling resources can lead to stronger results.

#### Contact for Further Information

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