

## One Door to Work in West Virginia

West Virginia can create a true work-first safety net to help people out of poverty and back to work.

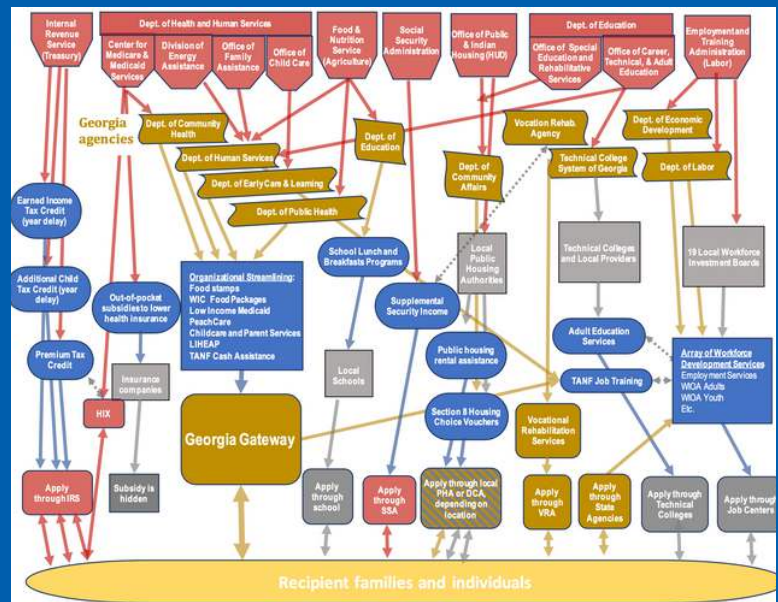


## The Problem

- The current safety net system is difficult to navigate for recipients. Our safety net for programs like SNAP, TANF and Medicaid and our workforce systems are completely separate. It's even more difficult to track success and ensure everyone is finding a bridge to work, training, or education.

## The Solution

- Create One Door to work and opportunity for low-income West Virginians.
- One Door creates a system that works by integrating the administration, service delivery, and data/finance systems for both safety net and workforce programs,
- West Virginia can make substantial progress in connecting citizens to meaningful employment and long-term economic mobility.



### THE GEORGIA EXAMPLE

This graph illustrates just one state's challenge to manage and deliver safety net services.

## It's been done before!



Utah rebounded quickest of any state from COVID job losses. What is it doing differently? Starting in 1997, Utah integrated its human services with workforce services, creating one unified Department of Workforce Services.

- Creates a true work-first approach: Human services are treated as support services to work.
- Consolidated 36 programs across 5 agencies.
- Saved Utah \$8 million in 2000 compared to 1996.

# The One Door Solution

The One Door model aligns the state agencies to address the underlying causes of long-term poverty. It's essential that public policymakers realign our fundamental safety-net programs to better connect people to work.

- Streamlined intake and case work for services: Citizens can start a single application for all safety net and workforce training that connects them to job training, resume-building, and employer-matching—eliminating confusion over where to begin.
- Seamless coordination among workforce partners: The model links state workforce agencies, community colleges, training providers, and employers into one network, facilitating matched referrals and support
- Targeted intervention for at-risk residents: Through cross-sector coordination, the system can quickly connect individuals facing multiple barriers (e.g., ex-offenders, persons with disabilities) to wraparound services that support job success..

## How Does WV Get Started?

- 1** Audit program outcomes, physical locations, and coordination of existing state agencies and programs.
- 2** Legislature or executive branch appoint a taskforce of stakeholders.
- 3** One Door taskforce creates recommendations to begin integration of administration, finances, data, and service delivery.

### POLLING ON ANTI-POVERTY & WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS

The Cardinal Institute is on a mission to change this narrative and remove the barriers that hold people back from meaningful work. See [CardinalInstitute.com/Dignity-Project](http://CardinalInstitute.com/Dignity-Project) for details from a 765-person poll in West Virginia.



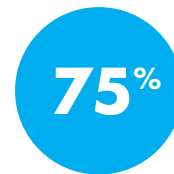
#### Direction

of West Virginians said their family is worse off economically today than a year ago."



#### Economic

**Opportunity**  
who rated economic opportunities in West Virginia as poor.



#### Labor Force

**Participation**  
of West Virginians said lack of good-paying jobs were major or moderate causes of low labor force participation



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