About Policy Committees

What are Policy Committees?

Through committee membership, NASWA members have a seat at the table to effectively influence policy development. NASWA committees help define policies on issues that are critical to state workforce agencies. These groups are active throughout the year and meet in-person three times annually in order to collaborate on key issues across the national workforce system.

How NASWA Members Can Join A Policy Committee

It’s easy! State workforce agency administrators should submit an email to naswa@naswa.org nominating an individual from their state for a specific committee. This can be done at any time. NASWA strives to have a representative from each state to participate in every policy committee.

Policy Committees

Administration and Finance

The mission of the Administration and Finance Committee is to

- refine UI administrative funding reform with the UI Committee as needed;
- analyze UI Trust Fund financing issues and strategies; and
- develop a polling mechanism to provide fast and more accurate information on how states are spending and obligating funds and complete the NASWA State Supplemental Funding Survey.

Communications

The mission of the Communications Committee is to:

Login to view the Administration and Finance Committee page

Login to view the Communications Committee page
increase and enhance communications between NASWA and member states;
bring attention to and advocate for the work being undertaken on important workforce and
unemployment insurance activities and policies nationally and in the states; and
leverage messaging at the state and national levels.

Employment & Training

The Employment and Training Committee is a vital asset for NASWA, providing state workforce administrators and senior staff a forum to:

- share information and solutions with other states on emerging issues related to the major workforce development programs;
- assist the NASWA Board with development of NASWA's legislative and other priorities; and
- inform the efforts of Federal policymakers, researchers, and partners.

The most frequently discussed grants are:

- Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA);
- Wagner-Peyser Act Employment Services;
- Reemployment Services and Eligibility Assessments (RESEA) for UI claimants'; Apprenticeship;
- WIOA partner programs (Vocational Rehabilitation, Adult Basic Education, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, SNAP, Child Care, Medicaid);
- Trade Adjustment Assistance; and
- Work Opportunity Tax Credit, Foreign Labor Certification, and services for veterans and other special populations.

Equal Opportunity

The Equal Opportunity Committee's mission is to:

- provide a forum for state workforce agency equal opportunity officers to discuss current EO issues;
- develop recommendations on how the workforce system can best meet regulatory compliance of its programs under federal law and regulations; and
• advise their state agency administrators as appropriate.

The committee also serves as a critical line of communication between state equal opportunity staff and the US Department of Labor’s Civil Rights Center.

Technology

The Technology Committee’s mission is to provide strategic guidance to states to improve workforce development outcomes by leveraging information technology.

Unemployment Insurance

The mission of the Unemployment Insurance (UI) Committee is to provide state input on

• unemployment insurance policies;
• performance requirements;
• administrative financing; and
• ways to strengthen the state-federal UI system.

The Committee strives for state consensus on issues and communicates policy proposals and concerns to the NASWA Board of Directors and the U.S. Department of Labor.

Unemployment Insurance Subcommittee on Interstate Benefits

NASWA’s Unemployment Insurance (UI) Subcommittee work is vitally important to the UI Committee and to NASWA leadership. The Interstate Benefits (IB) Subcommittee is the overseeing body for:

• state UI agreements;
• interstate benefits processes/procedures;
• states’ voice for the federal UI programs; and
• states’ voice for the combined wage claim program.

The mission of the IB system is to provide methods for the exchange of information among states
and Canada to support Unemployment Compensation initial claims, benefit determinations, and workforce security objectives.

Login to view the Unemployment Insurance Subcommittee on Interstate Benefits page

Veterans Affairs

The Veterans Affairs Committee currently has members from 50 states, Guam, Puerto Rico, the US Virgin Islands, and the District of Columbia. The goals of the Committee are:

- Continue support of the annual Veterans Conference.
- Advise state administrators on issues related to workforce programs for Veterans, primarily the Jobs for Veterans State Grant (JVSG), and respond to NASWA board direction on issues related to Veteran programming and service delivery.
- Conduct research on emerging issues, draft white papers, and prepare policy recommendations for the Board’s consideration.
- Provide a forum for the exchange of critical information for state leaders to discuss federal legislation, policy, funding allocation formulas, priority of service, the labor exchange, and other procedures affecting Veterans, Transitioning Service Members, Military spouses, and caregivers.
- Serve as a technical assistance resource for the Board on Veterans policy, initiatives, and programs.
- Maintain a close working relationship between NASWA and the U.S. Department of Labor (USDOL) Veterans Employment and Training Service (VETS), Employment and Training Administration (ETA), Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP) and the Office of Apprenticeship (OA) for the development of policy and procedures to provide workforce services to Veterans.

Login to view the Veterans Affairs Committee page

Workforce & Labor Market Information

The Workforce & Labor Market Information (WLMI) Committee provides a forum for state Labor Market Information directors and other workforce agency staff to:

- discuss collecting, analyzing, and customizing workforce and labor market information to serve a broad range of programs and customers;
- share promising practices internally and with other NASWA stakeholders; and
- advise the NASWA Board of Directors and State Administrators on advocacy and policy
matters.

Login to view Workforce & Labor Market Information Committee page