KALAMAZOO, Mich.—The Workforce Investment Act (WIA) was passed in 1998 with the purpose of consolidating, coordinating, and improving the effectiveness of the nation’s publicly funded employment and training programs. Whether or to what degree this has occurred has been a subject of interest for scholars, practitioners, and policymakers ever since, and the Act is drawing even more attention of late as Congress considers its reauthorization.

In *The Workforce Investment Act: Implementation Experiences and Evaluation Findings*, a new book from the W.E. Upjohn Institute, editors Douglas J. Besharov and Phoebe H. Cottingham present a group papers that provide the most comprehensive and up-to-date look yet at WIA’s program performance and impact. The papers were commissioned for a meeting held with staff of the European Commission for a discussion of WIA lessons and the implications for future workforce programming in the United States as well as Europe. They are organized into five areas: 1) understanding WIA, 2) program implementation, 3) performance management, 4) impact evaluations, and 5) future evaluation choices. In addition, they detail -over-
how WIA performance management systems function and present various evaluation techniques for assessing workforce programs. Included are:

- **Introduction**, Phoebe H. Cottingham and Douglas J. Besharov
- **An Overview of WIA**, Dianne Blank, Laura Heald, and Cynthia Fagnoni
- **The Use of Market Mechanisms**, Christopher T. King and Burt S. Barnow
- **Customized Training**, David A. Long
- **One-Stop Management and the Private Sector**, David Heaney
- **Eligible Training Provider Lists and Consumer Report Cards**, Carl E. Van Horn and Aaron Fichtner
- **The Challenges of Measuring Performance**, William S. Borden
- **Lessons from the WIA Performance Measures**, Burt S. Barnow
- **Recent Advances in Performance Measurement of Federal Workforce Development Programs**, Randall W. Eberts, Timothy J. Bartik, and Wei-Jang Huang
- **Financial Performance Incentives**, Stephen A. Wandner and Michael Wiseman
- **Ten Years of WIA Research**, Paul T. Decker
- **Short-Term Net Impact Estimates and Rates of Return**, Kevin Hollenbeck
- **A Nonexperimental Evaluation of WIA Programs**, Carolyn J. Heinrich, Peter R. Mueser, Kenneth R. Troske, Kyung-Seong Jeon, and Daver C. Kahvecioglu
- **Nonexperimental Impact Evaluations**, Haeil Jung and Maureen A. Pirog
- **Designing Reliable Impact Evaluations**, Larry L. Orr, Stephen H. Bell, and Jacob A. Klerman
- **Neither Easy Nor Cheap**, Sheena McConnell, Peter Schochet, and Alberto Martini
- **Improving Impact Evaluation in Europe**, Jeffrey Smith

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