

Ben Kushner has worked in career, education and workforce development since the establishment of the Workforce Investment Act in 1998. After 16 years as a commodities trader and marketing manager, he began a new career, taking full advantage of the dislocated worker services offered at a WIA-funded program in New York City. He was counseled by a team of career management professionals -- and then became one himself after receiving training and certification at New York University's Center for Career, Education and Life Planning.

In 2001, Ben helped establish the Business Services unit at New York City's first One Stop Career Center. From 2001 to 2003, he worked as a consultant to the New York City Human Resources Administration, where he helped the agency establish programs that served people on public assistance and workers dislocated by the events of 9/11.

Between 2003 and 2010, Ben was a contractor and later, a federal employee at ETA, where he focused on building the workforce system's capacity, One Stop operations, reemployment strategies, technical assistance initiatives, ETA's web-based communications tools including Workforce3One (now WorkforceGPS), and the Communities of Practice. In 2010, Ben moved to Los Angeles where he has been working as an independent consultant on federal and state workforce development contracts. He earned his bachelor's degree in Social Science at the State University of New York, College at Purchase.