

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR**Employment and Training
Administration****Developing USDOL/ETA's Five-Year
Research Plan for 2000–2004**

AGENCY: Employment and Training Administration, Labor.

ACTION: Notice of development of USDOL/ETA's Five-Year Research Plan; request for comment; and notice of research symposium.

SUMMARY: Notice is given on the development of the U.S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration's (USDOL/ETA) Five-Year Research Plan for 2000–2004, which plan is required under the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) of 1998, Section 171. The Research Plan will identify the potential research and evaluation efforts that will most assist USDOL/ETA in carrying out workforce development programs under the WIA. Comments on draft Research Plans are requested as part of the iterative process for developing the final Research Plan, which must be transmitted to Congress by July 1, 2000. Notice of the Workforce Development Research Symposium is also given, which is part of USDOL/ETA's broad efforts to obtain public input on the draft Research Plan, including suggestions on areas where future research is needed in employment and training. To obtain additional information on the Research Plan and Research Symposium, and to provide comments, visit the website at the following address: <http://www.heldrich.rutgers.edu/USDOL-ETA-ResearchPlan>.

DATES: A. An initial July 6, 1999 draft of the Research Plan is currently available for comment, and a revised draft will be available for comment on September 30, 1999. Comments on the July 6, 1999 draft must be received by August 30 for incorporation into the September 30, 1999 draft. Comments on the September 30, 1999 draft must be received by October 30 for incorporation into the final draft of the Research Plan.

B. The National Workforce Development Research Symposium will be held on Tuesday, July 27, 1999, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

ADDRESSES: A. All written comments on the USDOL/ETA Research Plan should be sent by mail to USDOL/ETA Research Plan, c/o Heldrich Center for Workforce Development, Rutgers University, 33 Livingston Avenue, 5th Floor, New Brunswick, NJ 08901; by fax at (732) 932–3454, by e-mail to hcwd@rci.rutgers.edu; or through the

Internet at the website address <http://www.heldrich.rutgers.edu/USDOL-ETA-ResearchPlan>. B. The National Workforce Development Research Symposium will be held at the Capitol Hilton Hotel, 16th and K Streets, NW, Washington, DC 20036. All interested parties are encouraged to attend. There is no registration fee, but prior registration is required. Seating is limited to 100 attendees, and will be available on a first-come, first-served basis. Instructions for registration are provided below under the supplementary information.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: A. For information related to the Research Plan, contact Janet Javar, USDOL/ETA, Office of Policy and Research, N–5637, 200 Constitution Ave., NW, 20210; fax: (202) 219–5455; e-mail: jjavar@doleta.gov. B. For information related to the Research Symposium, contact Aaron Fichtner, Heldrich Center for Workforce Development at Rutgers University, USDOL/ETA Research Plan, c/o Heldrich Center for Workforce Development, Rutgers University, 33 Livingston Avenue 5th Floor, New Brunswick, NJ 08901; fax: (732) 932–3454; e-mail: hcwd@rci.rutgers.edu.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

A. Why Is the U.S. Department of Labor/Employment and Training Administration (USDOL/ETA) Developing a Five-Year Research Plan?

Under the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) of 1998, Section 171, the Secretary of Labor is required to prepare a Five-Year Research Plan every two years. The first Research Plan under the WIA must be published in the **Federal Register** and transmitted to Congress by July 1, 2000. By requiring such a plan, the WIA has given USDOL/ETA the unique opportunity to conduct a literature review of previous employment and training studies and the research methodologies used for these studies, and to propose an agenda for the next five years (beginning July 2000) for pilots, demonstrations, research, and evaluation studies in areas related to workforce development programs and policies.

B. What Is the Purpose of the Research Plan, and How Is It Structured?

The Five-Year Research Plan will identify the potential research and evaluation efforts that will most assist USDOL/ETA in carrying out workforce development programs under WIA. The Research Plan will focus primarily on proposing an agenda for applied research and demonstration topic areas in employment and training that

endeavor to test new approaches, and describe the most successful and best practices, with the aim of providing a learning opportunity for policy-makers and practitioners.

The Research Plan will consist of the following sections:

- A review of relevant literature in employment and training research, such as research sponsored by USDOL, research by individuals and research institutions, and related research by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), the U.S. Department of Education (DoEd), and other federal agencies;
- An analysis of alternative research methodologies that should be used for various types of employment and training research;
- A presentation of potential research topics and evaluations that might be conducted in the next five years; and
- Recommendations for high priority topic areas which should be initiated over the next several years.

C. What Is the Process for Developing the Research Plan?

The John J. Heldrich Center for Workforce Development at Rutgers University is providing staff assistance to USDOL/ETA in developing the Research Plan, including preparing drafts of the plan. Available drafts of the Research Plan are for discussion only, and not for reproduction or quotation. These drafts are being developed by the Heldrich Center, and thus do not necessarily represent the official policies or positions of the U.S. Department of Labor. The USDOL/ETA has the responsibility for revising the submitted draft Research Plan into a final Research Plan, formally clearing the final Research Plan, publishing the final version of the plan in the **Federal Register**, and transmitting the final plan to Congress, as required by WIA.

The Research Plan is being developed through the input of a wide range of individuals and organizations, including research and policy offices of the USDOL, program offices of ETA, research departments of other Federal agencies, State and local levels of workforce development agencies, members of an Expert Panel, and other stakeholders in employment and training. In addition to publishing in the **Federal Register**, efforts to obtain input include establishing a website and convening the National Workforce Development Research Symposium.

D. What Is the National Workforce Development Research Symposium?

On July 27, 1999, the U.S. Department of Labor/Employment and Training

Administration and the Heldrich Center for Workforce Development at Rutgers University will convene a National Workforce Development Research Symposium in Washington, DC. This one-day symposium will bring together a variety of individuals with expertise in research in employment and training. The goal of the Research Symposium is to identify, through structured discussion, priorities for future research in employment and training. Concurrent sessions will focus on topic areas such as understanding the labor market, interventions to assist in-school and out-of-school youth, interventions to assist dislocated workers, interventions to assist adults (including welfare recipients and disadvantaged adults), interventions to assist individuals with disabilities and other special populations, unemployment insurance, new tools in employment and training (including reemployment incentives and self-employment/ microenterprise development), alternative methodologies for employment and training research, and national datasets needed for employment and training research.

Individuals interested in attending the Research Symposium should register by July 16, 1999. There is no registration fee, but prior registration is required. Seating is limited to 100 attendees, and will be available on a first-come, first-served basis. Persons with disabilities, needing special accommodations, should contact Aaron Fichtner of the Heldrich Center by July 16, 1999.

You can register for the Research Symposium by the following:

Mail: Mail your name, e-mail address, organization, telephone number, address, fax number, city, state, and zip code to USDOL/ETA Research Plan, c/o Heldrich Center for Workforce Development, Rutgers University, 33

Livingston Avenue 5th Floor, New Brunswick, NJ 08901.

Fax: Fax your name, e-mail address, organization, telephone number, address, fax number, city, state, and zip code to the Heldrich Center for Workforce Development at Rutgers University at (732) 932-3454.

Internet: Visit the Research Plan website at <http://www.heldrich.rutgers.edu/USDOL-ETA-ResearchPlan> to register online.

You will receive confirmation of your registration by mail, fax, or e-mail; the method will correspond to your registration method. Background materials for the Research Symposium, including the agenda for the day, is currently available on the Research Plan website.

E. To Contribute to the Development of the Research Plan

To make a suggestion, offer a comment, or request a written copy of an early draft of the Research Plan, please contact the Heldrich Center by mail at USDOL/ETA Research Plan, c/o Heldrich Center for Workforce Development, Rutgers University, 33 Livingston Avenue 5th Floor, New Brunswick, NJ 08901, by fax at (732) 932-3454, or by e-mail to hcwd@rci.rutgers.edu. You can also visit <http://www.heldrich.rutgers.edu/USDOL-ETA-ResearchPlan>. This website was developed by the Heldrich Center to allow a wide variety of individuals to provide input into the Research Plan as it is being developed.

Review an Early Draft of the Research Plan

An early draft of the Research Plan is currently available for your review. You can request this draft to be mailed to you or you can download it directly from the website. This early draft contains the first two parts of the plan:

—Section I: Review of Recent Research, Evaluation and Demonstration Initiatives and Identification of Needs, and

—Section II: Review of Alternative Methodologies for Employment and Training Research.

Section III (List of Potential Research Topics/Subject Areas) and Section IV (Recommendations for High-Priority Subject Areas) will be developed during the summer and fall of 1999, based upon further input from the U.S. Department of Labor, other Federal agencies, the Expert Panel, and the larger stakeholder community.

Comment on the Drafts of the Research Plan

Please submit your written comments on various drafts of the Research Plan by mail, fax, e-mail, or through the website. Include your name, address and contact information with your comments.

Suggest Areas Where Future Research Is Needed in Employment and Training

Section III of the Research Plan—List of Potential Research Topics/Subject Areas, and Section IV—Recommendations for High Priority Subject Areas—will be developed based upon extensive public input. Please submit your written suggestions for areas where you think future research is needed in employment and training by mail, fax, e-mail, or through the website. Include your name, address and contact information with your comments.

Signed at Washington, DC, this 9th day of July, 1999.

Gerard F. Fiala,

Administrator, Office of Policy and Research.
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