

| | |
|---|-------------------------------|
| TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT NOTICE | NO. 22-09 |
| | DATE December 18, 2009 |

TO: STATE WORKFORCE AGENCIES
STATE WORKFORCE LIAISONS

FROM: JANE OATES *Jane Oates*
Assistant Secretary

SUBJECT: Release and Availability of Employment and Training Administration (ETA)
Occasional Paper 2009-21: *Implementing the National Fund for Workforce
Solutions, the Baseline Evaluation Report*

1. Purpose. To announce the release and availability of ETA Occasional Paper 2009-21:
Implementing the National Fund for Workforce Solutions, the Baseline Evaluation Report.

2. Background. In September 2007, the Annie E. Casey, Ford, Hitachi, and Harry and Jeannette Weinberg Foundations launched the National Fund for Workforce Solutions (the National Fund). The National Fund is a five-year effort to build workforce intermediaries rooted in industry sectors and also to transform public and private institutions to improve employment, training, and labor market outcomes for low-income individuals and employers. The Foundations expect the workforce intermediaries to leverage major new investment in workforce development in regions across the nation. Three rounds of intermediaries, referred to as collaboratives, have been selected for assistance from the National Fund. Overall, the National Fund intends to serve 50,000 low-income workers and 1,000 employers.

The U.S. Department of Labor contributes to this endeavor by funding an independent evaluation of the effort. To carry out the evaluation, Workforce Learning Strategies was selected to conduct the implementation evaluation of the intermediaries that receive funding from the National Fund and evaluate their approaches for supporting regional partnerships. These partnerships are intended to provide training-related services to individuals as well as various services to local employers.

3. Publication Description. The report describes the National Fund during initial implementation, including the goals, strategies, characteristics, initial outcomes, and how the changing political and economic environment has begun to influence the National Fund's strategy. In addition, it includes key findings from analysis of the evaluation's qualitative and quantitative data. These findings include:

- Over 21 funding collaboratives were organized during the initial year, with 37 regional partnerships established as a result of efforts by these collaboratives. Some of the collaboratives were selected in late 2008, thus the number of new partnerships is expected to grow.

- A total of 6,306 individuals were served, approximately 45% of whom had a high school diploma or less. These individuals were served primarily by partnerships established by the first and second round of collaboratives selected by the National Fund prior to late 2007. During the same time period, 504 employers were served, slightly over half the National Fund's overall goal.
- Participants received intensive training and non-training services; partnerships reported providing 7,739 training services to participants during the first year.
- Efforts to transform public and private institutions that serve low-income workers include increased funding for training low-income workers, new training programs, and improved articulation agreements among educational institutions.
- Efforts to change employer practices include shifts to pre-payment of tuition for incumbent workers to return to school, employer funding for basic skills training, and greater flexibility in work schedules for incumbent workers attending classes.
- Approximately \$22 million was raised nationally and \$100 million pledged locally to support the regional partnerships' efforts.

4. Inquires. To view an abstract of this publication as well as to download the full report, visit the ETA Occasional Paper Series Web site at: <http://wdr.doleta.gov/research/keyword.cfm>.