

TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT NOTICE	NO. 22-12
	DATE February 19, 2013

TO: ALL STATE WORKFORCE LIAISONS
ALL STATE AND LOCAL WORKFORCE AGENCIES
ALL STATE AND LOCAL WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARDS
ALL AMERICAN JOB CENTER MANAGERS

FROM: JANE OATES *Jane Oates*
Assistant Secretary

SUBJECT: Announcement of the 2012 Employment and Training Administration
Research Papers Program

1. **Purpose.** To publicize the availability of funds for the 2012 Employment and Training Administration (ETA) Research Papers Program. This initiative will provide approximately \$80,000 to fund approximately 10 projects of Doctoral students interested in writing scholarly, policy-relevant research papers on topics of interest to the public workforce investment system.

2. **Background.** As the ETA Research Papers Program moves into its third year, the program continues with two objectives: 1) to provide relevant and evidence-based information to stimulate discussion and action among individuals working on the front-line of service delivery in the public workforce investment system and partner organizations, and 2) to simultaneously support innovative and scholarly investigation in the field of employment and training. Additionally, the ETA 2012 Research Papers Program will help support Doctoral program students while they complete their dissertations and studies in the employment and training field.

3. **Description.** ETA invites Doctoral students to submit proposals to conduct policy-relevant research with funding requests commensurate with the level of effort and complexity of the proposed study. Submitted proposals will outline scholarly papers to be written on innovative topics involving the public workforce investment system. Areas of interest to ETA fall under the five broad areas in the ETA Five-Year Strategic Research Plan for 2012-2017 soon to be released on ETA's research web site at: http://www.doleta.gov/reports/fiveyear_researchplan.cfm.

The five priority areas are as follow:

- **Understanding Changing Labor Markets.** This priority supports research on understanding the changing dynamics of labor markets and the resulting program and service needs for individuals; the severity of ongoing difficulties in the labor market, and in particular the increasing share of the long-term unemployed; understanding the changing structural versus demand-deficient causes of labor market distress; gaining a better understanding of the workings of sub-markets, such as those on and around tribal reservations; and better understanding and anticipating strategies to meet employer workforce needs, especially relating to energy, green jobs, and other emerging industries.
- **Identifying Effective Strategies.** This priority supports research on the needs of the workforce system as a whole by linking research across the various titles of the Workforce Investment Act; determining effective approaches to increasing the number of women in nontraditional career pathways; identifying the variations in programs and strategies, underlying reasons for the variations, and their effectiveness through the use of multi-disciplinary, cross-state, cross-site analyses that take full advantage of ongoing, multi-state research partnerships; determining Unemployment Insurance (UI) and employment strategies (such as job matching, career counseling, and other reemployment services) needed to assist UI claimants and other jobseekers in adjusting to ongoing labor market difficulties; determining the effectiveness of costs and returns on investment of training services and strategies, especially those leading to industry-recognized credentials and training certifications (including employer-specific strategies such as apprenticeship and on-the-job training); identifying effective strategies for teaching adult education and language skills through contextual learning; and examining workforce intermediaries (including nonprofit temporary staffing agencies) and sectoral strategies.
- **Improving Workforce System Infrastructure.** This priority supports research on effective management approaches and tools (e.g., the Frontline Decision Support System, E-tools, UI reforms) by developing performance adjustment mechanisms; determining how best to transfer knowledge within the system, going beyond the simple dissemination of promising practices to ways to encourage their adaptation and implementation by other practitioners; and examining the effectiveness of waivers in terms of their ability to give states and local areas the flexibility to improve the workforce system.
- **Addressing the Needs of Special Populations.** This priority supports research on the long-term unemployed (including still unemployed people who exhaust their unemployment benefits); dislocated workers; incumbent workers; youth (including at-risk youth); older workers; immigrants (including migrant and seasonal farm workers) and low-wage workers generally; English-language learners; working families; persons with disabilities; formerly incarcerated individuals; recipients of Temporary Assistance to Needy Families and veterans; low-skilled, disconnected men; Indian and Native Americans; and Hispanics (specifically immigration, internal relocation, and the cultural and language barriers). This priority also supports research on examining the effectiveness of the Work Opportunity Tax Credit to determine the kinds of employers who use the tax credit and the specific populations that benefit;

and examining what other kinds of incentives or strategies, such as short-term compensation, might be offered to these special populations that would improve their training and/or employment outcomes.

- **Building Research Infrastructure and Support.** This priority supports efforts to improving access, use, and confidentiality of administrative records for research and evaluation; creating more public-use and restricted-use datasets for analysis; and supporting research, evaluations, and site participation efforts at all levels of government (Federal, state and local) to support, implement, and build knowledge of evidence-based practices.

4. **Availability.** To view the announcement for the 2012 ETA Research Papers Program, please see the 2012 ETA Research Papers Program Web site at:
<http://www.ETAResearchPapersProgram.IMPAQINT.com>.

5. **Inquiries.** Please direct questions to Mrs. Gloribel Nieves-Cartagena in the Office of Policy Development and Research at: nieves-cartagena.gloribel@dol.gov or (202) 693-2771.