

TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT NOTICE	NO. 44-16
	DATE June 16, 2017

TO: STATE WORKFORCE AGENCIES
STATE WORKFORCE ADMINISTRATORS
STATE WORKFORCE LIAISONS

FROM: Byron Zuidema /s/
Deputy Assistant Secretary

SUBJECT: 2017 Monitor Advocate and Foreign Labor Certification National Training

1. **Purpose.** To inform State Workforce Agencies (SWA), Monitor Advocates (MA), and Foreign Labor Certification State Coordinators (FLCSC) of the 2017 “Monitor Advocate and Foreign Labor Certification Training,” sponsored by the Employment and Training Administration (ETA). The training will be held at the Crown Plaza Hotel in Albuquerque, New Mexico July 11-13, 2017. Some Regional Monitor Advocates (RMA) may request that the State Monitor Advocates (SMA) in their region stay until 12pm on Friday for pre-harvest discussions.
2. **References.**
 - 20 CFR 653.108(e)
 - 20 CFR 658.603(q)
3. **Background.** Wagner-Peyser Act regulations at 20 CFR 653.108(e) stipulate that all SMAs are required to attend training sessions conducted by ETA’s National and/or Regional Monitor Advocates. Further, ETA RMAs are required to meet with SMAs to discuss the states’ capabilities for providing services to Migrant and Seasonal Farmworkers (MSFWs) during the upcoming harvest season, as outlined at regulations at 20 CFR 658.603(q). ETA’s Office of Foreign Labor Certification (OFLC) administers Foreign Labor Certification (FLC) programs with the assistance of SWAs.
4. **Monitor Advocate and Foreign Labor Certification Training.** This event will provide training and technical assistance to MAs and FLCSCs to better fulfill their responsibilities regarding services to MSFWs and to employers who intend to hire and bring foreign workers to the United States to perform labor or services of a temporary or seasonal nature under H-2A and H-2B programs. Specific objectives of the training sessions are to: 1) provide best practices to MAs and FLCSCs to improve services and performance; 2) better integrate public workforce system services to MSFWs and agricultural employers; 3) better coordinate the enforcement of farmworker rights and protections; 4) facilitate the exchange of resources and strategies across states and agencies for serving MSFWs; and 5) provide technical tools to FLCSCs that will help with processing of the job orders and referrals. Additionally, this

training will provide important technical assistance sessions that will address SWA increased responsibilities in processing of the H-2B job orders and enhanced recruitment activities of U.S. workers. The success of the Monitor Advocate network relies on ETA providing on-going training and technical assistance to MAs. This training directly supports the Department of Labor's mission to increase employment opportunities and provide critical support and protections for MSFWs. Additionally, there is a critical need to train SWA staff for a successful implementation of the H-2B regulations. Specifically, this training will provide important technical assistance sessions for both the H-2A and H-2B programs that will address SWA increased responsibilities in processing of the H-2B job orders and enhanced recruitment activities of U.S. workers.

5. **Arrangements.** The "Monitor Advocate and Foreign Labor Certification Training" will begin Tuesday, July 11, 2017, at 8:00 a.m. (Central Time) and will continue until 5:00 pm (Central Time) on Thursday, July 13, 2017. The training will be held at the Crown Plaza Hotel 1901 University Blvd NE, Albuquerque, NM 87102. The OFLC, through grants to the SWAs, will reimburse the attending SWAs for the reasonable travel costs of all Foreign Labor Certification (FLC) coordinators, and for those Wagner-Peyser merit staff who perform FLC duties. Those participants who only perform Monitor Advocate duties (and do not perform FLC duties) will cover their travel and per diem on their travel days through Wagner-Peyser funds. Information on registration, the agenda, and hotel reservations will be provided via e-mail.
6. **Action Requested.** To comply with regulations set forth at 20 CFR 653.108(e), SWA Administrators are requested to allow SMAs, FLCSCs, and other staff involved with farmworker-related services to attend the "Monitor Advocate and Foreign Labor Certification Training."
7. **Inquiries.** Please direct inquiries concerning FLCSC attendance to FLC.Grant@dol.gov . Please direct inquiries regarding MA travel to the ETA Regional Monitor Advocate serving your state or to the ETA National Monitor Advocate at NMA@dol.gov. The list of ETA Regional Monitor Advocates and the states they serve can be accessed at: Monitor Advocate National Directory (https://doleta.gov/programs/MSFW/pdf/Monitor_Advocate_National_Directory_Updated_January_2017.pdf)