**Cover Note for the Two-Year Plan for Workforce and Labor Market Information**

Please note that the Department of Labor developed the enclosed Two-Year Plan for Workforce and Labor Market Information prior to the COVID-19 national health emergency. However, the strategies and activities discussed in this plan will remain relevant—and take on pronounced importance—in supporting the recovery of the American Workforce. The Department of Labor is well positioned to measure the labor market effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. Both the Employment and Training Administration (ETA) and the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) gather and disseminate crucial workforce and labor market information (WLMI) at the state and national level. The WLMI produced by these two agencies and their state partners provides information on employment levels and wages, and assists job-seekers and business in finding and filling vacancies. Additionally, through the national network of American Job Centers (AJC) and the website CareerOneStop.org, tools and information are readily available for job seekers, employers, and those wishing to explore career options, apprenticeship opportunities, and technical training.

BLS provides monthly, quarterly, and annual statistics measuring employment, wages, job openings, and other critical LMI. States also provide a more tailored LMI for their respective areas, and together with BLS data, detailed information on the state and local employment situation is widely available to all. The monthly Employment Situation Report, a Principal Federal Economic Indicator, contains employment levels and earnings for each industry. In May 2020, BLS added five questions to the Current Population Survey (household survey) that are designed to help measure the impact of the COVID-19 on individuals’ labor force participation. In addition, BLS designed a large business survey to help capture the impact of COVID-19 on establishments. BLS will field the new survey by this summer, and the survey will measure the impact of COVID-19 on businesses at the state and industry level. The Job Openings and Labor Turnover Statistics program provides monthly statistics showing the number of job openings, layoffs, and quits by major industry at the national level. State LMI offices also provide monthly, quarterly, and annual information for their state and local areas, similar to the information BLS provides at the national level.

ETA provides one important measurement of employment – the national weekly measure of new unemployment claims. This information is compiled from the state Unemployment Insurance (UI) offices, and those state offices provide a similar measure of new unemployment claims at the state and local level. Additionally, and critically important to our national recovery, ETA funds a nationwide network of AJCs, which provide a wide range of services for people seeking employment, apprenticeships, technical training, or career changes. Employers also work with AJCs to fill vacancies within their establishments. Further, the website CareerOneStop.org (a DOL/ETA sponsored website) helps users find local AJCs, state UI offices, view local job openings, locate apprenticeship opportunities, and help find career/technical education training.

As our nation recovers, the employment statistics provided by DOL will provide a valuable measure of how the labor market is progressing. The employment and training information available from ETA and their partners will be a valuable tool to help the recently unemployed and COVID-19 affected businesses recover.