



## U.S. Department of Labor Employment and Training Administration

### Welfare-to-Work

Welfare recipients and certain non-custodial parents are going to work, gaining job skills, and receiving the temporary help they need to become economically independent through local initiatives supported by Welfare-to-Work grants from the U.S. Department of Labor. These outcomes have been a primary goal of Federal welfare policy since the enactment of the 1996 Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunities Act which ended welfare as an entitlement and set lifetime limits on an individual's benefits. Additional welfare reform legislation in 1997 authorized the Department of Labor to provide Welfare-to-Work grants to help the hardest-to-employ, long-term welfare recipients get education, training, work experience, and private-sector jobs. These grants to States and communities are intended to provide welfare recipients with training, transitional employment, job placement services, and support services. Local communities have the flexibility to design programs that fit their particular needs.

Approximately three-fourths of the \$3 billion authorized for Welfare-to-Work was allocated to States on the basis of their poverty populations; the States are required to spend \$1 of non-Federal funding for every \$2 in Federal funds. Nearly one-fourth of the total funds were awarded competitively to local governments, private industry councils, or community-based organizations; 1 percent of the funds was awarded to Indian tribes, and 0.8 percent was set aside for evaluation. The Welfare-to-Work Initiative evolves to meet society's needs, even though virtually all of the grant funds had been distributed by the end of 1999.

At least 70 percent of grant funds were required to be spent on services to long-term recipients of Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) and non-custodial parents. The remainder could be spent on TANF recipients who have characteristics associated with long-term welfare dependency, youth who have received foster-care services, and custodial parents with incomes below the poverty line. Eligibility criteria were simplified under the Welfare-to-Work and Child Support Amendments of 1999.

Under related programs, Work Opportunity and Welfare-to-Work tax credits provide incentives for employers to hire welfare recipients. For further information, visit <http://wtw.doleta.gov>.

**You can access America's Workforce Network at <http://www.doleta.gov>, or by calling the Toll-Free Help Line at 1-877-US2-JOBS. (For TTY, call 1-877-TTY-JOBS.)**



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# Fact Sheets

The following is a list of Department of Labor-supported activities and services that are part of America's Workforce Network which may be of particular interest to workers, employers, and workforce development professionals. A fact sheet with specific information is available for each of the following areas:

- Accessing Services via Phone or Internet
- Adult Employment and Training Services
- America's Labor Market Information System
- America's Career Kit (Online Resources)
- America's Workforce Network
- Applying for ETA Grants
- Assistance for Trade-Impacted Workers
- Basic Information for Employers
- Basic Information for Workers and Job-Seekers
- Disability Employment and Training Services
- Dislocated Worker Program (Services for Laid-Off Workers)
- Foreign Labor Certification
- High-Tech Skills Training
- Job Corps
- Migrant and Seasonal Farmworkers Employment and Training Services
- Native American Employment and Training Services
- Older Workers Employment and Training Services
- One-Stop Employment and Training Services
- One-Stop Partners
- Registered Apprenticeship
- School-to-Work
- Tax Credit Programs
- Unemployment Insurance
- Welfare-to-Work
- Youth Opportunity (YO) Grants
- Youth Opportunity (YO) Movement

Available online at: <http://www.usworkforce.org/factsheets> or by calling (202) 693-3900. This Web address also provides links to other Federal partners under the Workforce Investment Act and other initiatives that provide additional services to enhance individual and community well-being.