

# BRIEFLY...

Highlights of Report Number: 06-03-006-03-390, a report to the Assistant Secretary, Employment and Training Administration. September 30, 2003.

## WHY READ THE REPORT

The DOL's Employment and Training Administration (ETA), Office of Youth Services (OYS), administers the nation's WIA youth programs. DOL grants funds to the states that, in turn, subgrant funds to local communities to implement youth programs.

Authorized under Section 126 of WIA, state and local activities are formula-funded youth programs that provide improved comprehensive services to eligible youth, 14 to 21 years old in local communities.

## WHY OIG CONDUCTED THE EVALUATION

The OIG conducted an evaluation of the WIA's youth programs operated by Local Workforce Investment Boards (LWIB). Our overall evaluation objective was to identify participant services and training activities as well as outcomes information on participants who registered during program year 2000 -- July 1, 2000, through June 30, 2001.

## READ THE FULL REPORT

The full report, including the scope, methodology, and agency response, is available on the Internet at:

<http://www.oig.dol.gov/public/reports/oa/2003/06-03-006-03-390.pdf>

SEPTEMBER 2003

# EVALUATION REVEALS THAT WIA'S YOUTH PROGRAMS CAN BE MORE FOCUSED

## WHAT OIG FOUND

The OIG found that:

- The WIA youth program focused predominantly on in-school, younger youth ages 14 through 16.
- Younger youth were enrolled equally in employment-related, educational, and work-readiness activities, whereas, older youth were enrolled more in employment-related activities.
- Almost half the youth exited the program within 1 year.

*Skill attainment* was the overwhelming accomplishment (91 percent) for younger youth, while *entered employment* (57 percent) was the predominant outcome recorded for older youth.

## WHAT OIG RECOMMENDED

The OIG recommended that ETA: (1) continue to push ETA's proposed amendments to the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 as they relate to the WIA youth program; (2) promote amendments to the WIA to allow summer employment as a stand-alone activity for those participants whose individual assessments indicate only that need; and (3) require youth program administrators and/or contractors and service providers to better document services provided and outcomes recorded to ensure that programs are accurately evaluated.

ETA generally concurred with our recommendations. However, ETA believes that the recommendation to allow summer employment as a stand-alone activity is contrary to the original legislative intent.