

## **FY 2007 Pilots, Demonstrations, and Research Operating Plan**

This report provides the Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration (ETA) Operating Plan for Pilots, Demonstration, and Research (PD&R) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2007. The PD&R funds are used for Program Year (PY) 2007, which began on July 1, 2007, and ends on June 30, 2008. The FY 2007 appropriation for this line item is \$14.7 million.

Investment decisions in PY 2007 will be guided by the following six priority areas in the Five-Year Pilot, Demonstration and Evaluation Strategic Plan for 2007-2012. It is important to note that the specific projects identified under each priority area will be planned for in accordance with the limited resources available in PY 2007. This plan covers new projects that will begin in PY 2007 as well as significant projects that will be continuing from prior years.

### 1) Integration of Workforce and Regional Economic Development

- Support the National Fund for Workforce Solutions.
- Support the Workforce Innovation in Regional Economic Development (WIRED) Initiative through two demonstration projects focused on creating entrepreneurship opportunities for minorities and workforce development housing.
- Continue the National Agricultural Worker Survey (NAWS) and expand the sample size.
- Continue the implementation of the New American Centers demonstration project.

### 2) Methods of Expanding U.S. Workforce Skills

- Conduct research on the energy and mining industries.
- Continue Preparing Rural Science and Math Teachers through Distance Learning.
- Expand the use of technology-based learning strategies to train American workers.
- Extend the Individual Training Account (ITA) Experiment by conducting a long-term follow-up.
- Support the Robert Wood Johnson's Jobs to Careers: Promoting Work-Based Learning for Quality Care demonstration project.

### 3) Increasing the Labor Market Participation of Underutilized Populations

- Support the Ending Chronic Homelessness through Employment and Housing Initiative.
- Examine opportunities and strategies for retaining older workers in key industry sectors that will be heavily impacted by the aging and retirement of the baby boom generation.
- Support the Joyce Foundation's Transitional Jobs for Formerly Incarcerated Individuals demonstration project.
- Examine efforts aimed at assisting women, seniors, individuals with disabilities, ex-offenders, limited English proficient individuals and disadvantaged youth overcome barriers to employment and connect with education and training opportunities.

### 4) Using State-Level Administrative Data to Measure Progress and Outcomes

- Collect administrative data and unemployment insurance (UI) wage records for the expanded ITA experiment to examine the incremental net-impacts of receiving training.
- Conduct a linked administrative data evaluation of the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) formula program by using quasi-experimental research methods.

5) Post-Secondary Education and Job Training

- Conduct a secondary analysis of the National Assessment of Adult Literacy.
- Continue piloting Career Advancement Accounts in eight sites.
- Examine how technology makes learning accessible.
- Continue testing Lifelong Learning Accounts.

6) Unemployment Insurance

- Conduct a macro-economic impact analysis of the UI system to determine how well it performs its stabilization functions during recessionary and non-recessionary periods.
- Analyze UI lifetime benefits and contributions to gain a better understanding of lifetime benefits/tax issues that can enhance the effectiveness of the UI system.
- Examine how non-covered workers deal with unemployment.
- Continue examining the Reemployment Eligibility Assessment Initiative.