

# Managing Customers' Training Choices: Findings from the ITA Experiment

#### Sheena McConnell Mathematica Policy Research







## **Experiment Tested Three Approaches**

	Approach 1:	Approach 2:	Approach 3
Counseling	Mandatory; most intensive	Mandatory; moderate intensity	Voluntary
Can Counselors Reject Choices?	Yes	No	No
ITA Amount	Customized	Fixed cap	Fixed cap





# **Rigorous Study**

- Implemented in 8 sites
- 7,920 customers in study
- Customers randomly assigned to one of three approaches
- Customers followed for 15 months after being found eligible for an ITA





### **Counselors Found Being Directive Difficult**

- Counselors rarely, if ever, rejected customers' choices
- When ITA award was not fixed, awards were substantially higher





### Customers Did Not See the Need for Additional Counseling

- When counseling was voluntary, few requested it
- Mandatory counseling discouraged take-up of ITAs
  - Customers found other ways to fund training





#### No Evidence That Any One Approach is Preferable

In 15 months:

- No impact on training rates
- No impact on occupation choice
- No impact on employment or earnings





For more information, please contact:

Janet Javar (DOL project officer) Javar.Janet@dol.gov (202) 693 3677

Sheena McConnell smcconnell@mathematica-mpr.com (202) 484 4518

