

# Monthly Update

## Resources for Migrant and Seasonal Farmworker Programs

Disseminated monthly by the  
U. S. Department of Labor, Office of National Programs,  
Division of Migrant and Seasonal Farmworker Programs  
200 Constitution Avenue, NW Washington, DC 20210  
<http://www.doleta.gov/msfw>

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### Upcoming Events

- **Feb. 16** [Retooling for the Road Ahead](#) National Network of Sector Partners and Southern Growth Policies Board. New Orleans, LA
- **Feb. 25- 28** [Transforming Globalization Challenges into Opportunities for America's Workforce and Businesses](#) Forum 2006 - Think Local Act Global. National Association of Workforce Boards. Washington, DC
- **Mar. 20 -23** [A Bountiful Harvest of Collaboration](#) MAFO, a National Partnership of Farmworker Organizations Conference. Atlanta, GA
- **May 14- 17** [Jazzing Up the Workforce Profession](#) 17th Annual NAWDP Conference. Charlotte, NC
- **July 11-13** [Talent Driving Prosperity](#) Workforce Innovations Conference 2006. Anaheim, CA

An additional Workforce System-Wide Calendar of Events provided by the Employment and Training Administration, <http://www.doleta.gov/leave-doleta.cfm?target=http://www.workforcetools.org/calendar.asp>, can also be found on the "Workforce Tools for the Trade," a USDOL website designed to help workforce development professionals excel.

### Department Initiatives

#### ***ETA Proposes Revision for WIA Information and Reporting System***

The Employment and Training Administration has proposed a revision of a currently approved information collection (Workforce Investment Act Information and Reporting System). State governments are respondents to this collection. Selected standardized information pertaining to participants in WIA Title IB programs are collected and reported for the purposes of general program oversight, evaluation and performance assessment.

A copy of the documentation may be obtained from Ira Mills on 202-693-4122 (this is not a toll-free number) or E-mail: [Mills.Ira@dol.gov](mailto:Mills.Ira@dol.gov).

The [December 21 FEDERAL REGISTER](#) provides full background, summarizes burden hour estimates, and describes the desired focus for public comment. Comments are requested by January 21, 2006.

***TEN 14-05: ETA Announces Release of Census Data on Limited English Proficient Adults and Glossary of Workforce Terms in 17 Languages***

The Employment and Training Administration (ETA) has announced the release of the **Special Tabulation of Census 2000 Data on Limited English Proficient Adults** and a **Glossary of Translated Workforce Terms**. These are

## ***Regional Announcements***

### ***REGION III***

**Growing Growers applications being accepted Columbia, Mo.** - The Growing Growers Kansas City apprentice program is seeking professional growers to act as mentors for the coming year's program.

In its third year, Growing Growers matches established natural methods and organic farmers in the Kansas City area with new and aspiring growers. Apprentices can participate in the part-time volunteer or full-time paid programs.

Apprentices have access to free monthly workshops, receive a packet of books and information on growing methods and business practices and get one-on-one mentoring from the host farmers.

Mary Hendrickson, an assistant professor of rural sociology with University of Missouri Extension and a Growing Growers board member, said the program offers apprentices first-hand experience in farm work and management.

"But it's also great for host farmers because they have to explain their practices to the

planning and resource tools for states and local workforce areas to use in providing services to Limited English Proficient (LEP) groups in those areas.

[Training and Employment Notice \(TEN\) 14-05](#) provides the full background on the database and glossary, and summarizes the content to be found on the respective websites:

- [http://www.doleta.gov/reports/CensusData/LEPhispanic\\_initiative.cfm](http://www.doleta.gov/reports/CensusData/LEPhispanic_initiative.cfm)
- <http://www.doleta.gov/usworkforce/LEP/glossary>
- [http://www.doleta.gov/reports/CensusData/eta\\_default.cfm](http://www.doleta.gov/reports/CensusData/eta_default.cfm)

apprentices and it makes them think about what they're doing," Hendrickson said. "You learn by teaching. So it really is a two-way learning process."

Host farmers receive a \$600 stipend for one apprentice or \$900 for taking on two or more apprentices. Host farmers are expected to attend two planning and program development meetings, one in the spring and one in the fall. Farmers also are expected to provide 12 to 15 hours of training to the apprentices they're hosting.

Growing Growers apprenticeships are meant for people interested in starting a career as a commercial grower, Hendrickson said. A \$105,000 federal grant, meant to help fund the program for three more years, was renewed this fall. Growing Growers is a joint project between MU, Kansas State University and various not-for-profit organizations.

For more information on the Growing Growers program, log on to [www.growinggrowers.org](http://www.growinggrowers.org).

## **REGION II**

**Distribution center will bring 300 jobs to Bedford, Pennsylvania:** An outdoor-equipment retailer announced that it would open a distribution center at the Bedford County Business Park II, and bring 300 plus

jobs. Recreational Equipment Inc. plans to have the center operational by 2008 and will have the full complement of jobs within five years.

## **Other Announcements**

### ***Economic Development America's Fall Edition Focuses on Building a World Class Workforce for the 21st Century***

**Economic Development America** is a quarterly volume produced by the partnership of the Economic Development Administration (EDA), the International Economic Development Council (IEDC) and the National Association of Regional Councils.

The [fall edition](#) features an article ("Talent Development is a Key Ingredient for Economic Development") adapted from a speech given by Emily Stover DeRocco, the Assistant Secretary for the Employment and Training Administration, at EDA's Symposium for 21st Century Workforce Development.

The issue also features:

- Myths and Action: What Economic Developers Should Know about

### ***Rural Opportunities, Inc. Receives a 2006 Annie E. Casey Strengthening Families Awards from the National Congress for Community Economic Development***

The National Congress for Community Economic Development receives funding from the Annie E. Casey Foundation to support an annual awards program to honor Community Development Corporation (CDC) innovative programs whose impact and innovation connect families and children with the community resources they

Workforce Development and Community Colleges

- Workforce Development: A Region's Key Business Retention and Expansion Tool
- Under One Roof: New Governance Structures for Aligning Local Economic and Workforce Development
- Putting Inner Cities to Work
- The Career Readiness Certificate -- An Idea Whose Time Has Come
- Manufacturing Skills Certification: A New Fast Track for Regional Innovation
- Preparing Middle and High School Students for Careers in Science and Health: Partnerships from the Chicago Area
- Help Wanted: Smyth County, Virginia

need to improve their economic success. Rural Opportunities, Inc. (ROI) is one of three recipients of this year's awards. The selection criteria is based on the Foundation's belief that establishing durable connections between families and neighborhoods and the mainstream economy is one of the most important building blocks for family strengthening and neighborhood transformation. It is thought that isolated families have the best opportunity to secure adequate incomes, accumulate savings, and live in economically viable neighborhoods through

a combination of workforce development, family economic supports, and community investment strategies. The proven strategies are results-oriented and sustainable that focuses on:

**Family Economic Support-** Providing information, resources and policies needed to meet basic family needs, retain and keep jobs, and build assets.

**Community Investment-** Creating investments and grant-making in housing, facilities and business, and commercial development.

**Workforce Development-** Providing skill development and education necessary to get good jobs and build careers.

*CDC programs may consist of the following activities: home ownership clubs; financial literacy programs; workforce development initiatives; job training; adult literacy; ESL training; youth employment; GED training; college preparation and resources; vocational training; business development and entrepreneurship; wealth creation mechanisms; savings, checking accounts, IDAs, property assets; connection to community resources and programs that assist families with economic development resources; and home ownership and asset development.*

## **Useful Websites**

### **Sector Initiatives for Workforce Development**

The [National Network of Sector Partnerships](#) is a website designed to support sector initiatives that are industry-specific workforce development approaches. Organizations in the field use a variety of strategies that are tailored to the regional economy, industry sectors, and worker populations. Basic strategies include training and skills development for specific industries and occupations, business development, organizing residents,

workers, employers and other key constituents, research and restructuring the work environment and integrating two or more of these strategies in a multi-faceted approach. These initiatives result in companies that are better able to fulfill workforce objectives while employees obtain improved income, benefits, and employment opportunities. Additional information can be found through the link above or via email at [nnsinfo@nedlc.org](mailto:nnsinfo@nedlc.org)

## **Staff Development Resources**

The USDA Economic Research Service recently posted the following bulletin and link to its publication on: Rural Hispanics at a Glance, by William Kandel; Economic Information Bulletin No. (EIB8) 6 pp, December 2005


Rural Hispanics at a Glance provides the latest information from the 2000 Census and other Federal data sources about Hispanics living in nonmetro counties. This

six-page brochure highlights growth and geographic dispersion, demographic characteristics, and the most recent indicators of social and economic conditions for this population. It emphasizes rapid Hispanic population growth, particularly in new rural destinations of the Midwest and Southeast, and it illustrates differences in age structure between Hispanics and non-Hispanic Whites. The report also provides data on important demographic, labor

market, income, poverty, and social service indicators for nonmetro Hispanics. Using a visually interesting format that incorporates text bullets with charts and maps, it quickly provides information on key indicators of the rural Hispanic population to assist public officials, community organizations, private decision makers and others in their efforts to enhance the economic opportunities and quality of life for this rapidly growing population.

- [Entire Hi-Res Document](#), 1,285 kb.
- [Download charts and maps](#).


Other useful articles that focus on the role of education in rural communities include:


 ["Does Human Capital Affect Rural Growth? Evidence from the South,"](#) by David Barkley, Mark Henry, and Haizhen Li, in *The Role of Education: Promoting the Economic and Social Vitality of Rural*

### **Public/Private Ventures Examines Job Networks of Low-income People to Broaden Employment Strategies**

In November 2005, Public/Private Ventures published, ["Getting Connect: Strategies for Expanding the Employment Networks of Low-Income People,"](#) a Field Series Report by Shayne Spaulding. The report focuses

*America*, Lionel J. Beaulieu and Robert Gibbs, eds., January 2005: 10-15.

 ["The Role of Education: Promoting the Economic and Social Vitality of Rural America,"](#) edited by Lionel Beaulieu and Robert Gibbs, Southern Rural Development Center and USDA, Economic Research Service, January 2005.

 ["How the Returns to Education in Rural Areas Vary Across the Nation,"](#) by Stephan Goetz and Anil Rupasingha, in *The Role of Education: Promoting the Economic and Social Vitality of Rural America*, Lionel J. Beaulieu and Robert Gibbs, eds., January 2005: 6-9.

["Low-Skill Employment and the Changing Economy of Rural America,"](#) by Robert Gibbs, Lorin Kusmin, and John Cromartie, ERR-10, USDA, Economic Research Service, October 2005.

on programs that "make the development of peer networks a priority either by fostering it in the classroom or among the alumni." Network development is emphasized through by providing more in-depth instruction of networking skills and exposure to individuals that may help expand the participant networks.

The staff of the Division of Seasonal Farmworker Programs  
wishes each and everyone a prosperous New Year!

**Migrant and Seasonal Farmworker Program Resources** is a technical assistance update distributed monthly by the U.S. Department of Labor (USDOL), Employment and Training Administration (ETA) Office of National Programs, Division of Seasonal Farmworker Programs. It provides announcements and other public information gathered by ETA Regional Office Weekly Reports or shared through the USDOL website and other public access resources.

We welcome your input. Please let us know how these updates might be improved to better serve your needs. If you would like to contribute information, post an inquiry, or suggest topics to cover, please contact Gloria Salas-Kos ([salas-kos.gloria@dol.gov](mailto:salas-kos.gloria@dol.gov))