

Weekly Update Report Data (sheet 2 of 2)

No.	Short bulleted list of the major actions taken to date	Short bulleted list of the major planned actions
1	Employment and Training Administration (ETA):	
2	On March 4, the Employment and Training Administration issued a Training and Employment Notice to the States providing an overview of ETA's implementation strategy for the Recovery Act funds to preserve and create jobs, promote the nation's economic recovery, and assist those most impacted by the recession.	
3	On March 6, the Employment and Training Administration issued a Training and Employment Guidance Letter to All State Workforce Agencies and All State Workforce Liaisons providing administrative guidance on the allotments for training and employment services as specified in the Recovery Act for activities under the Workforce Investment Act (WIA). This includes WIA Adult, Dislocated Workers, and Youth Activities Program Allotments; Wagner-Peyser Act Allotments; and Reemployment Service Allotments.	
4	On March 4th, Grant agreement Addendums were sent to States and grantees for Workforce Investment Act programs, the Wagner-Peyser Act program, and Senior Community Service Employment Program to be signed in order for funding to be released by March 19, 2009 obligating Recovery Act funds.	
5	<p>Education and Outreach:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -- On Tuesday, March 3rd, ETA participated in briefings on ARRA implementation with the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Regulated Agencies -- ETA convened a meeting on Friday, March 6, with intergovernmental organizations on ARRA implementation. Organizations included: National Governors Association, US Conference of Mayors, National Association of Counties, National League of Cities, National Association of State Workforce Agencies, National Association of Workforce Boards, and National Conference of State Legislatures this Friday, March 6th. 	<p>The Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) Program was reauthorized under the Recovery Act. The Employment and Training Administration has posted information on their website and will be following up with letters to petitioners explaining that petitioners have the ability to withdraw their petition and submit a new one beginning May 18, 2009, if they want to take advantage of new TAA program provisions.</p>

6	<p>On March 4th, DOL provided advance Congressional notification of deliverables developed in support of our ARRA implementation. The ARRA includes significant changes to the Trade Adjustment Assistance program, including changes to who is eligible for benefits; the deadlines for accessing benefits; and the benefits that are available. To better support ARRA implementation, we provided House and Senate Authorizers and Appropriators the letter to petitioners; website information for individuals with petitions currently under investigation; and website information for individuals considering filing a petition. In addition, the Department also provided allotment tables for Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Adults, Dislocated Workers, Youth, and Wagner Peyser – as well as the formula data factors. This was accompanied by the draft Training and Employment Notice (TEN) advising that allotments and planning guidance will be released soon.</p>	
7	<p>Employee Benefits Security Administration (EBSA):</p>	
8	<p>Education and Outreach: -- The development and issuance of outreach and education materials regarding COBRA entitlements. - Conducted Congressional Staff briefings with House and Senate Labor Committees and Senate finance committee on COBRA and the ARRA - Created dedicated COBRA website, www.dol.gov/cobra, and posted a COBRA premium reduction fact sheet, frequently asked questions and poster. - Received over 120,000 visitors to the dedicated COBRA website and over 9,500 subscribers who will receive automatic notices of new or updated announcements. - Responded to approximately 900 COBRA inquiries on a daily basis.</p>	<p>ARRA assigns significant new responsibilities to the Secretary of Labor in the benefit security arena. DOL must conduct extensive outreach, education, participant and compliance assistance programs as well as promulgate, under very tight time frames, model notices and regulations covering changes in COBRA eligibility and ARRA’s new premium assistance provisions. In addition, DOL must develop and implement a program that provides for expedited review and determination regarding an individual’s appeal of the denial of his or her request to be treated as an “assistance eligible individual” and thus entitled to a subsidy of 65 percent of the cost of the individual’s COBRA continuation health coverage for up to nine months. Notices are expected to be published in the coming weeks.</p>
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10	<p>Employee Standards Administration (ESA):</p>	
11		<p><i>Davis-Bacon:</i> Provide information to the federal contracting agencies on the requirements for complying with the ARRA’s Davis-Bacon provision and train and retrain investigators on Davis-Bacon investigative techniques and enforcement procedures.</p>
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13	<p>Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA):</p>	

14		Accelerate standards/guidance development.
15		Hire staff consistent with increased inspection workload.
16		Issue grants to states for enforcement activities and consultative services..
17		Complete targeting models for jobs, industries, and hazards relevant to ARRA.
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19	Office of Job Corps (JOB CORPS):	
20	Invitation for Bid for new Job Corps center in Iowa published in Federal Business Opportunities (www.fbo.gov) on March 5. Apportionment resubmitted to OMB on March 5. The Job Center is funded through ARRA.	
21	Office of the Inspector General (OIG):	
22	OIG initiated first audit under phase 1 of its oversight plan for the DOL's implementation of the <i>American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA)</i> . The audit will cover accounting and reporting on ARRA funds received by DOL.	The OIG will establish a web page dedicated to its audit and related oversight work of DOL's activities related to the <i>American Recovery and Reinvestment Act</i> .
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