U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
Office of Audit

BRIEFLY...
Highlights of Report Number: 18-10-013-03-390, to the Assistant Secretary for Employment and Training.

WHY READ THE REPORT
Congress enacted the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Recovery Act) to promote economic recovery and assist those most affected by the recession. The Department of Labor (DOL) received $750 million primarily for competitive grants to train and place workers in green jobs and health care jobs. Funds provided by the Act and used to hire staff to monitor these grants will expire on September 30, 2010.

The U.S. DOL Office of Inspector General (OIG) audited Employment and Training Administration’s (ETA) Recovery Act competitive grant solicitation, award and monitoring processes; and reviewed the agency’s budget request for $85 million to carry out its green innovation project during Fiscal Year 2011. The Recovery Act targeted $500 million for green grants and the remaining $250 million for health care sector jobs and high-growth jobs in emerging industry sectors. Of the $750 million, the OIG reviewed $717 million in grants awarded in time to be included in our review.

WHY OIG CONDUCTED THE AUDIT
Our audit objectives were to answer the following questions:

1. Did ETA use merit-based selection criteria, as required by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), in awarding $717 million in Recovery Act funds for competitive grants for worker training and placement in high-growth and emerging-industry sectors?
2. Did ETA consider “a demonstrated or potential ability to deliver programmatic results,” in awarding competitive grants under the Recovery Act, as required by OMB Memo M-09-15?
3. Did ETA’s guidance during grant solicitation and post solicitation activities, address Congress’ requirements?
4. Did the grant agreements require adherence to Recovery Act reporting requirements?

READ THE FULL REPORT
To view the report, including the scope, methodology, and full agency response, go to: