BRIEFLY…

Highlights of report number: 18-14-002-03-390, issued to the Assistant Secretary for Employment and Training.

WHY READ THE REPORT

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (Recovery Act) provided the Department of Labor’s Employment and Training Administration (ETA) with an additional $500 million in Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Adult program and $1.25 billion in WIA Dislocated Worker program formula funds to award to states. States were to use the funds to increase capacity and provide additional economic support and services to the workforce system. The Recovery Act did not change the nature of the WIA Adult and Dislocated Worker programs; supplemental funding could only be used for authorized WIA activities.

Within the Adult program, states were to use funds to provide the necessary services to substantially increase the number of adults entering or re-entering the job market; within the Dislocated Worker program, states were to use funds to support workers’ re-entry into the job market.

The Recovery Act emphasized in the Adult program a priority use of funds for services to recipients of public assistance and other low-income individuals, as set forth in 134(d)(4)(E) of the WIA.

WHY OIG CONDUCTED THE AUDIT

The audit was conducted to answer the following questions:

1. To what extent did states use additional WIA Adult and WIA Dislocated Worker formula funds to increase the percentage of recipients they served with direct training and supportive services?

2. To what extent did states give priority of service to assistance recipients and low-income persons in the WIA Adult program, as required by the Recovery Act?

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