

Appendix D

ETA Response to Draft Report

U.S. Department of Labor

Employment and Training Administration  
200 Constitution Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20210



MEMORANDUM FOR: ELLIOT P. LEWIS  
Assistant Inspector General

FROM: JANE OATES *Jane Oates*  
Assistant Secretary

SUBJECT: Response to the Office of the Inspector General's  
Audit of the Reemployment Services Program, Draft  
Audit Report 18-11-005-03-315

Date: March 30, 2011

The Employment and Training Administration (ETA) appreciates the opportunity to respond to the Office of the Inspector General's (OIG) draft audit report on the *Recovery Act: Reemployment Services Grant for UI Claimants*. We are pleased that the OIG audit states that the Labor Department (DOL) and the state workforce system did a good job implementing this new and temporary ARRA program to provide reemployment services to UI claimants at a time of great need in the economy. In the face of state hiring freezes and huge demand for services, states overcame many challenges to employ and train a temporary force to provide assistance to unemployed workers. DOL's timely guidance outlined allowable activities for the new program and also recommended to states which activities should be emphasized. The OIG audit report recognizes DOL's timely allocations of resources as well as the comprehensive technical assistance delivered to the workforce system. It found that states spent the grant funds on allowable activities. As of January 2011, over 5.4 million UI claimants received reemployment services with these funds.

However, we are troubled that this OIG audit also presents findings that are inaccurate or in conflict with our legislative authority. Since DOL staff were responsive to the information requests from the OIG auditors and briefing them on all of the various law and policy requirements, we can only conclude that these findings are based on a lack of understanding or mistakes on the part of the auditors. This response puts forth a factual rebuttal to the findings and recommendations.

**Finding 1:** DOL Did Provide Timely General Guidance But Missed an Opportunity to Direct the States to Address Identified Long-Term Deficiencies and Weaknesses in the Reemployment Services Program.

**ETA Response:** We apprised the auditors that DOL did not have the authority nor was it our policy to “direct” grantee expenditures. In short, it is illegal for DOL to “direct” states without the express authorization from Congress to target the funds to a narrower scope of allowable activities than contained in law. As directed by the Recovery Act and per the *Requirements of the Grants and Cooperative Agreements Act of 1977*, ETA provided guidance within its authority and encouraged (without mandating) states to address every known area in need of further strengthening state reemployment services to UI claimants. These areas were initially discussed in the primary source of formal guidance on RES funds, Training and Employment Guidance Letter (TEGL) 14-08, which recommended the following categories of suggested strategies for spending RES funds:

- *Profiling and the Use of Statistical Modeling*
- *Collaboration Among State Employment Service, Unemployment Insurance, and Labor Market Information Offices*
- *[Providing the] Full Array of [Reemployment] Services*
- *Upgrading of Information Technology*

ETA took the opportunity in its guidance to emphasize the strategies that the state RES programs should include; these strategies are based upon information from various information sources, including reports and audits identifying RES-related program needs. The OIG auditors did not identify any specific strategy or “weakness” that was not included in DOL’s guidance recommendations.

In addition, ETA backed up its recommendations by providing extensive technical assistance on Reemployment Services. Since the passage of ARRA, ETA has held nearly 40 technical assistance webinars for this \$250 million program to guide states in their use of RES funds or in direct support of better services to UI claimants (See Attachment A). Many additional resources were posted to the newly created RES Community of Practice (See Attachment B). A sampling of webinar titles includes:

- *ETA’s Vision and Guidance: Using your RES Funds*
- *RES: Strengthening Your Reemployment Efforts through Strong UI Connections*
- *Innovative Approaches to Obligating Funds by Sept 30, 2010*
- *Re-envisioning UI Claimant Reemployment Strategies: A Call to Innovate*
- *Quick Reference on Allowable Uses of ARRA RES Funds*
- *NY’s Innovative RES Function*

ETA also held six Regional Recovery and Reemployment Forums. These were implemented to provide timely and *state-customized* technical assistance to the system in a mode that enabled wide system participation. The Forums had a combined total attendance of 2,201 participants, with representatives from all 50 states and three of four territories. According to our final report on the forums,

the most frequently covered workshop topics were Flexible Service Delivery, Skills Assessment, Technology and Tools, and Actionable Workforce Data. These workshop topics coincided with areas highlighted in TEGL 14-08.

Beyond providing states with guidance, tools and access to program experts, the premise of directing states to focus on certain services also violates the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) of 1998, which established a decentralized public workforce system with a national network of local One-Stop Career Centers that are the access points for the delivery of employment-related and training services. As with many of its programs, DOL allocates funding to states, which in turn set statewide policies and then, distribute funding according to state and local needs. The OIG audit report does not reflect a full understanding of this fundamental concept.

As a final note, the OIG audit took exception with DOL's guidance for states to obligate funds by September 30, 2010. However, Congress and the Recovery Act itself emphasized rapid obligations to ensure an immediate positive impact and included September 30, 2010 as a statutory requirement. DOL carried out its role by reinforcing the Congressional intent and imposed deadline and equipping states with ideas about how and where to invest these funds to help make the program successful.

**Finding 2:** DOL Did Not Monitor How RES Funds Were Spent to Achieve Transparency Regarding the Uses of the Funds.

**ETA Response:** We disagree with many of the facts stated by the OIG auditors in this finding. As a result of incorrect facts and assumptions, we believe the analysis is flawed. Specifically:

- OIG Audit: *"DOL officials required the States to report quarterly on the obligation amounts of the Recovery Act RES funding but did not require reporting on how states spent grant funds. The lack of information on how grant funds were used was not consistent with the Recovery Act's requirement for transparency and accountability."*
- - All RES grantees completed a quarterly ETA 9130 financial report. That report not only requires submission of data on obligations, but also revenue received, expenditures, and the unliquidated obligations that remain against the total funds authorized for grant activities. The ETA 9130 is the approved financial activity report (OMB approval through November 2012). Our reporting requirements are consistent with Federal rules throughout the Federal government. Additionally, all grantees further complied with ARRA Section 1512 reporting requirements for spending, which is a new, government-wide report for all spending under ARRA grants and contracts. Therefore, DOL has met all Recovery Act standards for transparency and accountability.

- *OIG Audit: "The DOL officials told us there was not enough time to develop and implement a new data collection system, nor was it practical to do so, given the limited duration of the Recovery Act funding."*
  - This is an incorrect summary description of information provided to the auditors: ETA is constrained by the data collection requirements contained in the Paperwork Reduction Act and is not authorized to request additional detailed financial reports without PRA compliance, and OMB clearance follows an extensive process to justify the additional burden on a grantee. ETA already had a financial reporting system in place that provides the results of financial activity in a manner consistent with all Federal reporting requirements. Recovery Act funding was appropriated under existing program authority in order to use existing systems and processes to expedite implementation and minimize the creation of new systems.
  
- *OIG Audit: "For the States we reviewed, the officials told us that DOL never asked for reports on how they were spending their funds, but rather asked for reports on how quickly the funds were being obligated. The States were able to provide us with information on how they spent the RES funding. We found there was a wide variance in how the States maintained information on RES expenditures which were not uniform or consistent among the four States. California had 16 categories of expenditures, New York 14, Pennsylvania 12 and Florida had 9."*
  
- - The use of different "categories" is perfectly consistent with the differing state accounting and budget requirements. The different "categories" referenced in the report are accounting system budget/expense codes commonly found in accounting systems. Each state will account for the funds in a manner that allows them to fully track funds for state accounting purposes as well as for Federal reporting. We do not believe this paragraph or the breakdowns of different state accounting system codes used to support the auditor's opinion are relevant to this report.
  
- *OIG Audit: "We obtained several DOL monitoring reports and related documentation that stressed the need for funds to be obligated. However, none of these reports or documentation referenced the need for sound financial or fiduciary spending responsibility."*
  
- - We disagree with the statement and opinion expressed. It is accurate that ETA provided technical assistance to the states and stressed the early obligation and expenditure of funds in keeping with Congressional intent for the Recovery Act to provide services to those impacted by the recession. It is not accurate to state that ETA did not

reference a need for sound financial management of its grants. ETA has an oversight system based on the use of the Core Monitoring Guide and the ARRA supplement. Our monitoring reviews the financial and grant management systems of all grantees and grant agreements contain specific requirements for the proper management of funds. The fact that the monitoring reports did not "reference" the need does not mean that the requirements were not present or that they were not reviewed. Rather, the monitoring reports found no issues in the review and therefore, no compliance findings needed to be addressed. In addition, ETA staff review progress and financial reports and conduct a desk review on a quarterly basis. Any discrepancies are discussed with grantees, and technical assistance is provided as needed.

**Finding 3:** Recovery Act RES Funds Were Not Spent Early in the Grant Period, and DOL Did Not Provide Proper Oversight to Determine if the Funds were Spent Concurrently with Other Grant Funds.

**ETA Response:** We do not believe that this is a finding. The law established the period of time within which to spend the funds with no requirement for early expenditure, and the RES funds were spent both within the grant period and concurrently with other Wagner-Peyser funds. ETA requires all grantees to report financial activity by fund source on a quarterly basis. An analysis of these reports shows that Wagner-Peyser ARRA funding and Wagner-Peyser regular formula funding were spent concurrently. Additionally, RES ARRA funds were spent concurrently with Wagner-Peyser regular appropriation and ARRA funds. (See Table below). The Core Monitoring Guide ARRA Supplement contains specific questions related to spending concurrently and to supplement non-ARRA funds in Objective 3.1 Budget Controls. Thus, this guide prescribes ETA's oversight on this point. These facts were readily available to the auditors but unaccounted for in the report.

In addition, the OIG audit report fails to accurately acknowledge DOL's implementation of the legislation which allowed states to obligate funds until September 30, 2010 and to expend funds up to June 30, 2011.

Program	Obligations	
	7/1/09 to 6/30/10 (PY 2009)	7/1/10 to 9/30/10 (PY-to-date 2010)
WP-ES Regular Appropriation Funds	641,185,811.99	190,624,736.78
WP-ES ARRA funds	95,365,860.34	42,767,102.08
RES ARRA funds	165,470,310.59	64,907,572.13

**Finding 4:** Unreliable DOL Reports on Grant Activities Prevent Assessments of Grant Outcomes.

**ETA Response:** We believe that the audit finding is based on an oversimplification of the process of reporting *and* an incorrect understanding of ETA's guidance to states. As a result, the OIG audit report makes an inaccurate conclusion about reporting reliability. State reports to ETA capture the results of a state's activity (i.e., the number of UI claimants served and the type of services received). The OIG audit report makes a factual error by inferring that DOL did not track participants in the RES program separate from the larger Wagner-Peyser-funded Employment Service program.

TEGL 24-08, *The Workforce Investment Act and Wagner-Peyser Act Performance Accountability Reporting for the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009*, provides instructions for states to report on RES Recovery Act-funded participants separately. The TEGL provides a definition of an RES participant and goes on to cite two factors that make it necessary to create a separate report for the Reemployment Services portion of the Recovery Act: "(1) The Recovery Act makes a clear distinction between general Wagner-Peyser Act funds and Reemployment Services funds to support targeted services to Unemployment Insurance claimants. Oversight bodies, including Congress, have indicated the need to better understand the impact of the \$250 million dedicated to UI claimants; and (2) the Wagner-Peyser Act Employment Service serves over 14 million individuals each year [since ARRA: 23 million]. If RES participants are not reported separately from the regular Wagner-Peyser Act reporting, ETA would not have the ability to analyze and track positive effects of the new Reemployment Services funds. Separate identification and reporting of these participants ensures that ETA can demonstrate accountability for resources expended by these grant." ETA's most recent monthly report from January 2011 shows that over 5.4 million unemployed workers have received services through the RES funds since May 2009 (See Attachment D).

The OIG audit report also stated that "states were not reporting the services provided to UI claimants consistently..." citing differences in numbers and proportion of services from state-to-state. This statement is another example of the lack of understanding of a decentralized workforce system. The numbers and proportion of services differ from state-to-state because of different state program service design strategies – and not inconsistent reporting. Reporting does not drive service delivery; it captures the outputs and outcomes of the state's overall strategy. The workforce system is decentralized, and states and local areas have discretion in the service strategies they choose and how they respond to their unique labor market needs.

**Recommendation 1:** Establish priorities, outcome measures, and reliable data collection systems for future Wagner-Peyser funding to address program weaknesses and better measure the services states are providing to UI claimants.

**ETA Response:** DOL operationalized all the elements of this recommendation (and more) in implementing the ARRA RES program, and DOL will do the same should additional funding be made available under the Wagner-Peyser Act. To recap: ETA set priorities through formal guidance and technical assistance; received quarterly data on outcomes (percent getting a job, retained in the job and earnings); and maintained the Labor Exchange Reporting System (LERS) for Wagner-Peyser funds. In addition to outcome reports, DOL implemented new monthly Recovery Act performance reporting requirements. The resulting report provided additional, timely information to DOL, the general public, and other stakeholders about the use of the Recovery Act funds. The monthly 9147 performance reports (on participants and services) and quarterly 9002 performance reports (on outcomes of program exiters) allowed users to view real-time performance progress and long-term employment outcomes for UI claimants who received RES. In summary, DOL's accountability guidelines for the Recovery Act, as outlined in TEGL 24-08, emphasized data quality, streamlining data collection, and collection of information that demonstrates measurable program outputs and outcomes consistent with the intent of the Act. There is no further action needed on this recommendation.

**Recommendation 2:** Develop adequate monitoring and financial reporting requirements to enable DOL to report how effectively federal funds are spent by states to provide employment and reemployment services.

**ETA Response:** ETA does not believe that this OIG audit recommendation is supported by fact. This recommendation appears to be based upon a misunderstanding of both OMB reporting burden requirements and the Recovery Act requirements. While we address this misunderstanding in our response to Finding 2, we elaborate on what appears to be a flawed analysis of requirements, reports and supporting documentation.

ETA has an approved, robust system of monitoring and financial reporting in place that enables DOL to report to Congress and the public on how federal funds are spent by states. This system is supported by numerous documents that were provided to or discussed with the auditors, including (1) Employment and Training Order-1-08, the ETA Core Monitoring Guide (with multiple supplements including the one for Recovery Act funding); (2) OMB approved forms 9130 and 9136 for grantee financial reporting; (3) the WIA Standardized Reporting Data system for grantee performance outcomes; and (4) the Grants Electronic Monitoring system, (GEMS) for management of grants during the period of performance. In addition, specifically for the ARRA programs ETA implemented the transparency requirements of Section 1512 of ARRA, under the guidelines provided by the Recovery Act Transparency Board (RATB), and OMB Memoranda M-09-10, M-09-15, and M-09-21. This compendium of policies and procedures provide a framework for the management of Federal grant funds that is comprehensive and in keeping with all Federal grant management standards and requirements.

**Recommendation 3:** Determine from its own independent analysis what states' experiences were with the Recovery Act RES funding to identify best practices, areas for improvement, and short and long-term achievements. DOL can then use this information to set goals and measures for outcomes and achievements for all future funding provided by Congress for reemployment and employment services.

**ETA Response:** ETA agrees that independent analysis of the results will be useful for informing the design and development of future initiatives. ETA already had planned or implemented such independent reviews before the OIG audit commenced. For example, ETA provided grant funding to the National Association of State Workforce Agencies (NASWA) to conduct a multi-state study of the implementation of Recovery Act Investments, including RES. We are about to release an interim report: *Early Implementation of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act: Workforce Development and Unemployment Insurance Provisions* that contains information on best practices, results, and areas for improvement based on five surveys and two rounds of site visits to 20 states (See Attachment C). A final report will be issued later this year. No further action is needed on this recommendation.



**Attachment A**

<b>RES Rollout: Guidance, Technical Assistance and Major Milestones</b>		
<b>Activity</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Date</b>
National Reemployment Works Summit	Three weeks prior to the Recovery Act being signed into law, ETA hosted a National Reemployment Works Summit with workforce professionals from all 50 states. Nearly 700 individuals participated. The majority of workshops focused on reemployment strategies. Topics included UI claimant profiling and supporting technologies; how to triage; UI/reemployment integration; real time labor market information; and assessment and variety of useful staff services.	27-Jan-09
RES Allotments Announced	The Department announced, in Training and Employment Guidance Letter (TEGL) No. 13-08, ARRA allotments to states and outlying areas for the Wagner-Peyser Act (including Reemployment Services) - just 17 days after the passage of the Act.	6-Mar-09
RES Implementation Guidance Issued	The Department issued the Implementation Guidance on March 18, 2009 in TEGL No. 14-08. The guidance outlines the Department's expectations for implementing the Workforce Investment Act and Wagner-Peyser Act funding in the Recovery Act and state planning requirements for Program Year 2009.	14-Mar-09
RES Grant Agreements Signed	Grant agreements were signed by states and outlying areas on March 17, 2009, which allowed for timely Notice of Obligations. The grant agreements bound grantees to new safeguards as outlined in the Recovery Act.	17-Mar-09
Internal Technical Assistance Webinar	ETA Staff Briefing: Policy and Planning Guidance for the Implementation of WIA and Wagner-Peyser formula funds under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act	20-Mar-09
Technical Assistance Webinar	Live Broadcast: Implementing the Recovery Act in the Workforce Investment System	23-Mar-09
Technical Assistance Webinar	Readiness and Technical Assistance Consultation Guide Overview	1-Apr-09
Technical Assistance Webinar	Real Time Jobs in Demand: Finding Jobs in a Contracting Economy	9-Apr-09

Technical Assistance Webinar	RES Community of Practice Kick-Off Technical Assistance Webinar	13-Apr-09
State Readiness Consultations	To support state implementation of Recovery Act WIA and Wagner-Peyser Act formula funds, ETA conducted readiness consultations with each state. These consultations informed ETA's technical assistance strategy. As planned, 209 visits were completed by May 22, 2009. A consolidated report of findings was cleared by OMB, and published in June 2009. OMB Control No. 1205-0471.	15-Apr-09
Engaged Inter-governmental Organizations	Contracted with a consortium of all major IGO's in the implementation of ARRA including: NASWA, National Governor's Association; NCSL; Counties; League of Cities; NAWB, etc.	15-Apr-09
Technical Assistance Webinar	ETA's Vision and Guidance: Using your RES Funds	16-Apr-09
Technical Assistance Webinar	American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Funds Financial Reporting Requirements	6-May-09
Technical Assistance Webinar	Targeting Job Development for Unemployment Insurance Claimants	8-May-09
Performance Reporting Guidance	TEGL 24-08 (and TEGL 7-10) Workforce Investment Act and Wagner-Peyser Performance Accountability Reporting for the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009	21-May-09 Updated 8-Aug-09
Technical Assistance Webinar	Creating Access Points: Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships that Work	22-May-09
Technical Assistance Webinar	ARRA Reporting	5-Jun-09
State Plan Resubmissions	ETA required all states to submit a State Plan modification describing strategies to respond to the economic downturn and implement the Recovery Act by June 30, 2009. The June 30, 2009 submission covered the period of July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010. ETA reviewed and approved plans within 90 days of receipt of the plan.	30-Jun-09

Technical Assistance Webinar	Connecting Unemployment Insurance Claimants to Pell Grants: The Financial Aid Basics for the Workforce System	21-Jul-09
Technical Assistance Webinar	Utilizing Labor Market Information to Help Job Seekers Make Career Decisions - LESSON 1	27-Jul-09
Technical Assistance Webinar	RES: Strengthening Your Reemployment Efforts through Strong UI Connections	29-Jul-09
Technical Assistance Webinar	Utilizing Labor Market Information to Help Job Seekers Make Career Decisions - LESSON 2	29-Jul-09
Technical Assistance Webinar	Utilizing LMI to Help Job Seekers Make Career Decisions - LESSON 3	31-Jul-09
Technical Assistance Webinar	ARRA Section 1512 Reporting Requirement	14-Aug-09
Technical Assistance Webinar	ARRA (Recovery Act) Section 1512 Reporting Requirement	19-Aug-09
Technical Assistance Webinar	ARRA Section 1512 Registration and Data Quality Review	14-Sep-09
Technical Assistance Webinar	ARRA Section 1512 Recipient Reporting Update	18-Sep-09
Technical Assistance Webinar	State Labor Market Information (LMI)	22-Sep-09
Technical Assistance Webinar	Integrated Resource Team (IRT) Model: Strategy to Serve Job Seekers with Multiple Barriers to Employment	24-Sep-09
Technical Assistance Webinar	ARRA 1512 Reporting Orientation for New Grantees	14-Dec-09
Technical Assistance Webinar	ARRA Section 1512 Reporting Updates	30-Dec-09
Technical Assistance Webinar	Reemployment and Eligibility Assessments (REAs)	28-Jan-10
NASWA Recovery Act Findings	Report published early findings stating that RES funds were being obligated and expended concurrently; that 2,600 staff were hired; and listed the top services being funded by the grant.	1-Feb-10

6 Regional Forums: In-Person TA Meetings on Reemployment Services and Strategies	ETA's Regional Recovery and Reemployment Forums were implemented to provide timely and regionally-customized technical assistance to the system in a mode that enabled wide system participation. The Forums represented a significant component of the larger Reemployment initiative undertaken by ETA. The Forums had a combined total attendance of 2,201 participants, with representatives from all 50 states and three of four territories.	30-Mar-10 to 11-Jun-10
Webinar: Innovative Approaches to Obligating Funds by Sept 30	A collaborative presentation to states by NASWA, US DOL, and select states to discuss innovative ideas/technologies that can be carried out using RES funds.	30-Apr-10
Webinar (Specific state approaches to using RES funds)	Director of the Division of Employment and Workforce Solutions, NYS Department of Labor. The presentation lays out the state's innovative approaches to reemployment.	16-Jun-10
Webinar (using RES funds for assessments)	The \$250 million in Reemployment Services Grants provided through the Recovery Act have generated a host of creative and innovative approaches to helping the unemployed. In particular, we have learned a great deal over the last year about how assessment tools can strengthen reemployment services. Personality assessments, work values assessments, skills transferability assessments/tools, interest assessments, educational assessments, occupational skills assessments, work readiness assessments and the list goes on and on. All of these types of assessments and more increase the workforce system's ability to match job seekers and employers. If you are still looking for ways to invest your ARRA RES funds, we want to help you learn about which instruments are the most effective by connecting you with your workforce system colleagues who can give you unbiased, first-hand feedback on their experience with specific products. If you are interested in purchasing a particular assessment instrument or tool and would like to see if there is a workforce system colleague that is using the instrument you are interested in, please contact our resident expert on assessment tools: Lauren Fairley-Wright Workforce Analyst USDOL – ETA – Office of	

	Workforce Investment wright.lauren@dol.gov	
Strategic Doing - And What It Might Do for Your ARRA RES Investments	Strategic Doing is also a platform for moving quickly and collaboratively from innovative ideas to innovative actions in a simple, structured and – most important in our fast-moving world where even a few focused hours are a luxury – fast process that helps to solidify partnerships, define relationships, and create a “swarm” (to borrow a Strategic Doing term) of new ideas and solutions quickly. And with many states needing to decide how best to invest their expiring ARRA Reemployment Services (RES) and Wagner-Peyser dollars, there may be no better time to become familiar with this action-oriented decision making tool. As you will see from the materials, a growing number of local, regional and state organizations are using this approach to “jump-start” creative solutions.	10-Jun-10
Virtual Tool Assist Reemployment Unemployed	Rollout of innovative skill matching website called MySkills MyFuture	9-Sep-10
Technical Assistance Webinar	MySkills MyFuture	16-Sep-10

National Recovery and Reemployment Research Conference	The conference was designed to give the workforce community an opportunity to engage with experts and colleagues to broaden their understanding of critical labor issues and challenges in the present economy. The conference translated specific research, pilot, demonstration, and evaluation efforts into actionable reemployment strategies that can be used in the workforce system.	15-Sep-10
Virtual Tool Assist Reemployment Unemployed	Rollout of the Worker Reemployment Portal	20-Sep-10
Virtual Tool Assist Reemployment Unemployed	On-line Unemployment Insurance (UI) Adjudication Training Announcement	20-Sep-10
Technical Assistance Webinar	RAD Feedback Session Chat: Jump On A Moving Train: More RAD News	1-Nov-10
Technical Assistance Webinar	RAD Feedback Session Chat: Jump On A Moving Train: More RAD News	2-Nov-10
Technical Assistance Webinar	A National Vision for Reemploying Unemployment Insurance (UI) Claimants Through an Integrated/Interconnected Workforce System	22-Nov-10
National Reemployment Summit	Brought together of 800 state and local workforce practitioners from across the country. The summit was an opportunity to advance the national discussion about the design and delivery of effective reemployment solutions for workers and businesses. A number of proposed workshops support ETA's vision of a stronger, more interconnected One-Stop delivery system. Examples of workshops especially pertinent to the Employment Service and its role include: 1) Strategies for Serving the Longest Unemployed; 2) Targeting Reemployment Services with Program Data; 3) Translating Labor Market	15-Dec-10

	Information for Improved Local Area Service Delivery; and 4) Research on Reemployment Strategies.	
Technical Assistance Webinar	Reemployment and Eligibility Assessments Moving Forward (Part I)	25-Jan-11
Technical Assistance Webinar	Reemployment and Eligibility Assessments Moving Forward (Part II)	31-Jan-11
Virtual Tool Assist Reemployment Unemployed	Introducing My Next Move	18-Feb-11
Technical Assistance Webinar	Reemployment and Eligibility Assessment Program Innovations in Tennessee and Utah	7-Mar-11
Technical Assistance Webinar	Program Performance–Calculation of Registered Apprenticeship Program Completion Rates	8-Mar-11
Technical Assistance Webinar	Re-envisioning UI Claimant Reemployment Strategies: A Call to Innovate (Connectivity Vision Series - Region 1)	8-Mar-11
Technical Assistance Webinar	Re-envisioning UI Claimant Reemployment Strategies: A Call to Innovate (Connectivity Vision Series - Region 6)	9-Mar-11
Technical Assistance Webinar	Re-envisioning UI Claimant Reemployment Strategies: A Call to Innovate (Connectivity Vision Series - Region 5)	9-Mar-11
Technical Assistance Webinar	Re-envisioning UI Claimant Reemployment Strategies: A Call to Innovate (Connectivity Vision Series - Region 4)	11-Mar-11
Technical Assistance Webinar	Re-envisioning UI Claimant Reemployment Strategies: A Call to Innovate (Connectivity Vision Series - Region 2)	14-Mar-11
Technical Assistance Webinar	Re-envisioning UI Claimant Reemployment Strategies: A Call to Innovate (Connectivity Vision Series - Region 3)	16-Mar-11

**Attachment B**

**Making the Most of Our Reemployment Services Grants**

*Reemployment Community of Practice: Posted on April 28, 2010 by Mary Alice McCarthy*

When Congress included \$250 million for Reemployment Services (RES) in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act's (ARRA), we knew it was a great opportunity to reinvigorate one of the public workforce system's most vital functions. Since February 2009, states have made a variety of innovative investments to meet the urgent challenge of reemploying millions of Americans – from mobile RES units, to new skill assessment tools, to integrated information management systems that support the seamless delivery of reemployment services to all job seekers. Through our travels to regional conferences and our conversations with you, we have learned of the steady progress toward our goal of system integration and transformation.

An important deadline is approaching: All ARRA RES funds must be obligated by September 30th, 2010. While states have through PY2011 to spend the monies, any funds that have not been obligated by this September will expire. Over the course of the next six weeks, NASWA and ETA will focus on how states can invest their ARRA RES funds to strengthen services to unemployed workers and bolster the long-term capacity of the system to provide reemployment services by improvements in both staff training/capacity and service design. We will use webinars and the community of practice as vehicles for sharing information and providing technical assistance. Upcoming activities include:

**Webinar:** We will kick off the campaign this Friday, April 30th when NASWA and ETA jointly host a webinar featuring three innovative approaches to spending RES funds. The webinar will include presentations by Washington, Wisconsin, and Utah, each of which invested their ARRA funds on creative and system-enhancing activities that will provide a foundation for continued program improvements.

**Sharing Best Practices:** The community of practice will host a series of blogs detailing how different states are responding to the challenges of serving the unemployed and strengthening system integration and performance.

**Peer-to-Peer Technical Assistance:** The community of practice will also host live discussion threads, through which states can pose questions or suggestions around effective ways to obligate their funds. Community of Practice managers and NASWA staff will facilitate peer-to-peer information sharing across the states.

**ARRA RES Shopping List:** The community of practice will host a collaborative "shopping list" of items that states are buying with their ARRA RES funds. We hope you will add your own investments to this "wiki shopping list" and share any questions or suggestions you have about the use of ARRA RES funds.



We believe this is a critical moment in our effort to transform and expand reemployment services. Any monies that are not obligated by September 30th, 2010 represent a lost opportunity at a time when reemployment services are in greater demand than at any time in recent history. With the unemployment rate expected to remain high, it is essential that we continue to invent new and creative ways to help Americans get back to work. We know you share our goal and we look forward to working with you on this urgent challenge.

**Attachment C**

**Snapshot of State Accomplishments Using RES Funds**

Except: *Early Implementation of ARRA: Workforce Development and UI Provisions* (pg 108-109) by the National Association of State Workforce Agencies (NASWA).

Many of the states visited by researchers (AZ, CO, FL, IL, OH, and WI) included RES activities among their major achievements under the Recovery Act. In Arizona, Recovery Act funds allowed the state to launch a new RES program across the state, including three dedicated reemployment centers in counties with significant unemployment. Colorado noted that its efforts under the Recovery Act have helped bring the UI and workforce systems closer together; staff on both sides is more knowledgeable about the other's programs and more willing to collaborate. Florida officials also viewed their RES program as an accomplishment, particularly the new emphasis on intensive staff-assisted services. Illinois successfully re-launched its RES program, last offered in 2005, with Recovery Act funding.

Ohio, with local workforce agencies facing budget cuts and hiring freezes, the additional Wagner-Peyser and RES Recovery Act funding enabled the state to bring on 100 intermittent (temporary, full-time) staff, which have been deployed in One-Stops across the state to handle burgeoning numbers of customers. This additional funding also helped to expand the numbers of RES orientation sessions and one-on-one case management services available to UI claimants.


One of the biggest accomplishments in the Wisconsin workforce system that has resulted from the Recovery Act is that there has been a substantial expansion in RES services. Wagner-Peyser Recovery Act funds (\$7.2 million) and UI Recovery Act administrative funding (\$3.6 million) – for a total of nearly \$11 million – were used to expand and fundamentally change the way in which UI claimants are served by the One-Stop system. State officials noted that the Recovery Act provided the resources needed to re-engineer and make fundamental changes to the way in which RES is provided for UI claimants.

Wisconsin's *Career Pathways* model, developed several years ago through a Joyce Foundation grant, is now being applied to UI claimants with Recovery Act RES funds.

These findings are echoed in NASWA's survey. Almost half of the survey respondents (46%) reported that their state's RES program or the UI/Workforce system partnership in their state was an achievement of the Recovery Act implementation. Only 27% of those states, however, reported that their achievements in RES were sustainable.

**Attachment D**

Recent 9147 Monthly Report and 9002 Quarterly Outcomes Report

 <p style="text-align: right;">U.S. Department of Labor Employment and Training Administration</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>WAGNER-PEYSER REEMPLOYMENT SERVICES GRANTS MONTHLY REPORT</b></p> <p>ETA Form: ETA-9147 Report Due Date: 02/15/11 Report Month End Date: 02/28/10</p> <p style="text-align: right;">OMB No. 1205-0474 Expires: 1/30/2013 Date Report Certified: 03/01/11</p>		
	<b>Staff-Assisted Services</b>	
<b>Participant Information</b>	<b>Current Month</b>	<b>Program to Date</b>
Total number of new participants served	207,118	5,459,701
Total number of participants served	622,394	6,637,174
Number of Veterans served	81,825	617,619
Number received workforce information services	246,203	3,650,773
Number received career guidance	131,087	1,768,836
Number received job search activities	344,382	4,540,387
Number referred to employment	168,335	2,135,120
Number referred to WIA services	96,995	1,503,685
Number referred to training, including WIA-funded training	22,650	482,498

Sample 9002 Outcomes Report from the Quarter Ending December, 2010

<b>Outcomes for UI Claimants</b>		
Entered Employment (i.e. got a job)	2,632,595	
Entered Employment Rate Base	5,750,352	
Entered Employment Rate		46%
Employment Retention (i.e., kept a job)	2,077,806	
Employment Retention Base	2,782,791	
Employment Retention at Six Months Rate		75%

\*Note the monthly report captures participants (active in the system) whereas the outcomes' report captures employment outcomes of those who exited the program.