

BRIEFLY...

Highlights of report number: 18-13-003-03-330, issued to the Acting Assistant Secretary for Employment and Training.

WHY READ THE REPORT

The Trade Globalization Adjustment Assistance Act (TGAAA) was enacted as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (Recovery Act). TGAAA increased funding and reauthorized the Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) program. TGAAA required states make available eight specific employment and case management services to participants eligible under the program. The audit covered the period from the inception of the Recovery Act through the end of audit fieldwork in May 2012. The scope of the audit was based on data submitted by the states as of September 30, 2011, and recorded in the Trade Activity Participant Report (TAPR), which included 114,711 participants certified under 4,516 petitions. We statistically selected a sample of eight states and 255 participants for detailed testing to answer our audit objectives.

WHY OIG CONDUCTED THE AUDIT

OIG conducted the audit to answer the following questions:

1. Did states offer eligible workers employment and case management services as required by TGAAA?
2. Was ETA able to demonstrate the additional funding for employment and case management services resulted in job placement and retention for participants?
3. To what extent have eligible workers received services or training and been placed in training-related jobs that resulted in continued employment?

READ THE FULL REPORT

To view the report, including the scope, methodology, and full agency response, go to:

<http://www.oig.dol.gov/public/reports/oa/2013/18-13-003-03-330.pdf>

August 2013

RECOVERY ACT AUDIT: REQUIRED EMPLOYMENT AND CASE MANAGEMENT SERVICES UNDER TGAAA

WHAT OIG FOUND

The OIG found that states provided some of the services required by TGAAA, but states could not demonstrate that all eligible workers were offered or provided all eight case management services required under the TGAAA. Although ETA issued guidance that states must document the offering of these services, not all of the states in our sample had effectively implemented that guidance.

Additionally, we found that ETA was not able to demonstrate that additional funding for employment and case management services resulted in increased job placement and retention for participants. ETA did not have accurate and complete data available to determine whether a participant received employment and case management services in either the TAPR or from documentation maintained at the state level. Certain data reported in the TAPR was inaccurate or not supported, therefore, not reliable. This was caused, in part, because neither the states nor ETA had fully implemented TAPR data integrity and validation efforts.

Based on our independent gathering of participant information available at the state level, when the audit testing results are projected to the entire universe of participants, we estimated that as of September 30, 2011, approximately 7,112 participants had become employed, and approximately 2,524 are estimated to have obtained training-related employment as a result of receiving case management and employment services.

WHAT OIG RECOMMENDED

We recommended the Acting Assistant Secretary for Employment and Training improve procedures, guidance, data validations, and transparency related to the TGAAA program.

The Acting Assistant Secretary agreed with the recommendations and described planned actions and actions already in process to implement the recommendations.