

**Department of Labor
Office of Inspector General
Office of Audit**

BRIEFLY...

Highlights of Report Number 04-09-003-01-370, *Job Corps' Reported Performance Measures Did Not Comply With All Legislative Reporting Requirements*, to the National Director, Office of Job Corps, dated March 23, 2009.

WHY READ THE REPORT

The Job Corps program assists eligible youths who need and can benefit from intensive programs in a group setting to become more responsible, employable, and productive citizens. Education, training, and support services are provided to students, ages 16 through 24 at Job Corps centers.

The Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (WIA), requires the Secretary of Labor to annually submit a report to Congress containing performance information on the Job Corps' program and for each Job Corps center.

In addition, Congress enacted the Government Performance Results Act of 1993 (GPRA) to ensure program effectiveness and accountability. To facilitate compliance with GPRA, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) requires the Secretary to report on three performance measures common to all Federally-funded youth education and training programs: (1) attainment of a high school degree or its equivalent; (2) job placement rates; and (3) literacy and numeracy gains.

WHY OIG DID THE AUDIT

We conducted a performance audit of the Office of Job Corps performance measurement reporting system. Our audit objective was to determine if Job Corps' reported performance measures comply with all legislative reporting requirements.

READ THE FULL REPORT

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

<http://www.oig.dol.gov/public/reports/oa/2009/04-09-003-01-370.pdf>

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WHAT OIG FOUND

The Department did not fully comply with WIA and GPRA reporting requirements. As a result, Congress, OMB and other decision makers may have lacked some critical data for making informed decisions regarding the Job Corps program.

Although Job Corps collected the necessary data to comply with the WIA reporting requirement, Job Corps did not annually prepare a report for submission to Congress that included the performance outcomes of each Job Corps center and the results for all performance measures.

We also found that Job Corps did not fully comply with OMB's reporting requirements for job placement outcomes. Job Corps did not include all students who left the program in its reported job placement data, but instead only reported placement outcomes for students who had been enrolled for at least 60 days.

WHAT OIG RECOMMENDED

We recommend that the Job Corps National Director comply with all WIA and OMB reporting requirements, and annually prepare the performance report required by WIA for the Secretary to submit to Congress.

Job Corps acknowledged that no single consolidated report containing center-specific data for all WIA indicators of performance has been produced for submittal to Congress, but believes such a report would be so large and too labor intensive to be of value to stakeholders. Job Corps believes that it publishes all required information on program performance and outcomes, albeit in multiple formats. Job Corps is waiting for guidance from OMB on the use of statistically adjusted data to compensate for inaccurate or inconsistent data Job Corps currently uses for reporting on the common measure for job placement results.