



BRIEFLY...

JOB CORPS COULD NOT DEMONSTRATE BENEFICIAL JOB TRAINING OUTCOMES

March 30, 2018

WHY OIG CONDUCTED THE AUDIT

In a 2011 audit report, the Office of Inspector General (OIG) reported that Job Corps placed participants in positions unrelated to their training, placed participants in positions that required little or no training, and in general overstated the success of its job placements.

Job Corps' mission is to teach eligible young adults the skills they need to become employable and independent, and place them in meaningful jobs. For Program Years (PY) 2010 – 2016, Job Corps spent \$1.7 billion annually.

WHAT OIG DID

We conducted a performance audit to answer the following question:

To what extent have Job Corps training programs helped participants enter meaningful jobs appropriate to their training?

We selected a random sample of participants reported as placements to assess the skills and employment experience they had when they enrolled, the training and services they received while in Job Corps, and the outcomes achieved after exiting.

READ THE FULL REPORT

<https://www.oig.dol.gov/public/reports/oa/04-18-001-03-370.pdf>.

WHAT OIG FOUND

Job Corps could not demonstrate the extent to which its training programs helped participants enter meaningful jobs appropriate to their training. This occurred because Job Corps' contractors did not adhere to program policy regarding the collection of information related to participants' prior employment history upon entry into the program, and did not provide participants with effective transition services.

We found 123 of 324 randomly sampled participants were employed prior to enrollment. However, contractor records only documented employment history for 50 of the 123 participants. For the 50 participants with a documented employment history, comparing pre-training to post-training employment revealed 27 participants were placed into jobs similar to their pre-training employment, including 4 that returned to prior employers.

Finally, Job Corps contractors could not demonstrate they had assisted participants in finding jobs for 94 percent of the placements in our sample. Participants either found jobs through their own efforts or without clearly documented contractor assistance. For PYs 2010 and 2011, Job Corps paid millions of dollars to transition services contractors, but we found insufficient evidence demonstrating they had provided the services required by their contracts.

WHAT OIG RECOMMENDED

We made four recommendations to the Employment and Training Administration to improve management oversight of center and transition services contractors.

The Employment and Training Administration concurred with the OIG's conclusions and agreed with the recommendations.