

U.S. Department of Labor

Assistant Secretary for
Employment and Training
Washington, D.C. 20210



Dear Colleague:

The Administration's Fiscal Year (FY) 2007 budget request for the Employment and Training Administration (ETA) was released on February 6, 2006. It is a responsible budget that reflects the competitive demands for limited resources for domestic programs and the need to eliminate waste and redundancy.

As many of you may already know, the FY 2007 budget request no longer asks for resources to support the operation of America's Job Bank (AJB). AJB served an important role when it was developed in 1995 as the first national electronic job board on the Internet and provided the initial Internet labor exchange presence for each of the states, beyond providing direct services to employers and job seekers. In fact, the strong collaboration between the states and ETA made AJB a critical part of the workforce system infrastructure for many years and contributed to its success. However, the environment has changed since AJB was started over a decade ago, as most states have developed or purchased their own Internet-based job banks and the private sector has caught up and produced numerous nationwide job sites and thousands of other specialty sites. ETA has extensively reviewed and evaluated these changes in the environment and the ongoing viability of maintaining a national job site and has determined that the benefits of AJB no longer outweigh the costs of operating and maintaining this system. Therefore, ETA is proceeding with plans to phase out AJB by June 30, 2007.

We are aware that this decision affects our state partners, and as such would like to invite you to participate in a conference call to discuss the impact of this change and our plans to work with you during the phase out period. Specifics on the conference call are as follows:

Date: March 17, 2006
Time: 03:00 – 04:00 EST
Dial In Number: 1-800-619-3462
Access Code: 35478

I hope all of you will be able to participate in this call, but in the event that your schedule precludes your participation, a fact sheet on the AJB transition and a list of frequently asked questions and answers (Q&As) are attached that contain information that will be discussed during the call.

Sincerely,

Emily Stover DeRocco
Assistant Secretary for Employment and Training
U.S. Department of Labor

Attachments