

## WORKFORCE INFORMATION/ELECTRONIC TOOLS/SYSTEM BUILDING

<b>BUDGET AUTHORITY BEFORE THE COMMITTEE</b>						
(Dollars in Thousands)						
	FY 2008 Enacted	FY 2009 Enacted	Diff. FY08 Enacted / FY09 Enacted	Recovery Act	FY 2010 Request	Diff. FY09 Enacted / FY10 Req
<b>Activity Appropriation</b>	<b>52,059</b>	<b>51,720</b>	<b>-339</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>51,720</b>	<b>0</b>

### Introduction

This budget line item provides funding for a number of different activities designed to bolster the capacity of the workforce investment system to carry out its mission, all of which are critical in the current economic climate. The activities include: 1) Collection and analysis of economic and workforce data and translation of that information into workforce intelligence to enable the workforce system and its customers to make informed decisions; 2) Development of robust career information, industry-driven competency models, tools to develop and implement career pathways, and assessment tools; 3) Infrastructure to support performance accountability; 4) Technical assistance and capacity building tools and activities; and 5) National electronic tools that support self-service and direct service delivery within One-Stop Career Centers as well as provide access and connectivity to One-Stops.

As the Nation struggles to recover from the current economic downturn, all of these functions take on new importance. Economic data and workforce information are crucial to developing economic recovery strategies. Career information and assessment tools are essential to transitioning workers making decisions about new careers and education alternatives, as well as for the workforce professionals supporting them. Connectivity to self-service information virtually and to One-Stop Career Centers nationally is part of the nation's safety net for unemployed workers.

More specifically, activities supported with these funds include:

- Workforce information grants to states to fund state workforce agency labor market information activity to project growth industries and occupations in their state and regional economies, and to leverage and integrate other data sources to answer and respond to economic and workforce questions; provide support to state and local workforce boards in analyzing and using regional data to support strategic decisions and investments; to support economic developers and businesses with economic data and labor market information key to business growth strategies; and to support national tools used as a self service option by customers and workforce professionals.
- National infrastructure (oversight of the development and use of common statistical methodologies, data standards, development and maintenance of common software for use by states, licensing of an employer data base, technical assistance to states, etc.) to enable states to carry out their mission of providing robust labor market and workforce information and to enable development of national tools that roll up state data.

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- Ongoing development and maintenance of the Occupational Information Network, or O\*NET, which catalogues the knowledge, skills and abilities for all of the Standard Occupational Classification defined occupations and others. This robust data base is the foundation for a wide array of uses including development of career information and assessment tools, development of job descriptions, development of competency models and career pathways, and many other uses in the public and private sectors.
- Funding to support hosting, development, and maintenance of national electronic tools delivered through the CareerOneStop.org portal including America's Service Locator which provides information on One-Stop Career Centers and other service providers by zip-code; and America's Career Information Network, which has a vast array of career information.
- Funding for key performance accountability infrastructure, such as the Wage Record Interchange System (WRIS), which enables connectivity to wage data to support identification of performance outcomes, and development and maintenance of Data Validation software provided to states.
- Hosting, development, and maintenance of an interactive, knowledge sharing and e-learning platform called Workforce3one.org to support national technical assistance strategies for the workforce system and other technical assistance activities.

Workforce Information Grants to States require some core deliverables, such as development of occupational projections and populating a national Workforce Information Data Base, but also offer states flexibility in shaping their workforce information strategies. This flexibility extends to the annual economic analysis and annual report on accomplishments. States are required to consult with the State workforce investment boards (SWIB), regional economic development leadership within the state, other economic development partnerships, local workforce investment boards (LWIB), and involved organizations in order to receive significant stakeholder input into the development of the grant deliverables. Because these investments contribute to multiple facets of the workforce system – both strategic and in support of One-Stop service delivery, the performance outcomes of the WIA and the Wagner-Peyser Act programs are considered the outcomes for these investments. All investment and strategies contribute to the workforce investment system's efforts to improve the employment, retention, and earnings of individuals served by the system.

Performance for the suite of Electronic Tools is assessed based on usage statistics, such as the number of site visits to the various Web-based tools. The industry standard for measuring the traffic to a Web site has evolved over time to be site visits, since this measure is more stable and less easily manipulated than other Web site metrics. The current measures are:

- Performance Goal Indicator 1: Number of O\*NET site visits.
- Performance Goal Indicator 2: Number of CareerOneStop site visits

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- Performance Goal Indicator 3: Number of Career Voyages (a subset of the CareerOneStop suite of tools) site visits

The various data sets delivered through the sites are refreshed as each new data set becomes available. Enhancements in presentation and new tools are also developed and implemented to encourage return visits and provide value to a broad range of user communities. Usage has been increasing over time, with a total of over 9.3 million site visits per quarter to the combined E-tools Web sites in 2008. Additional detail is provided in the table on Performance Goals and Indicators.

### **Funding Mechanism**

The Workforce Information Grants to States are funded by formula to all states. O\*NET, the CareerOneStop Portal, America’s Career Information Network, and America’s Service Locator are managed through grants to specific states (Minnesota and North Carolina), who administer the tools with state cooperation. Other tools and services are supported by Federal technical assistance resources.

### **Five-Year Budget Activity History**

<b><u>Fiscal Year</u></b>	<b><u>Funding</u></b> (Dollars in Thousands)	<b><u>FTE</u></b>
2005	97,974	0
2006	81,662	0
2007	63,855	0
2008	52,059	0
2009	51,720	0

NOTE: Excludes Recovery Act Funding. See budget activity head table.

### **FY 2010**

The Department requests \$51,720,000 in FY 2010. This request includes \$32,000,000 for state core data products and services under the Workforce Information Grants to States. The remaining amount funds the national infrastructure, development and maintenance of O\*NET, national electronic tools delivered through the CareerOneStop.org portal, performance accountability infrastructure, and knowledge sharing e-learning platform described above.

A key area of emphasis for FY 2010 is the ongoing support and investment in the activities described in the Introduction, with a core focus using these critical resources to support economic recovery. The goal is to advance the development of workforce information, products, tools, and services that support the national economic recovery, global competitiveness, effective use of Recovery Act resources, worker reemployment, and growth of green jobs. In addition, these resources are foundational to the sector partnerships creating innovative workforce strategies to ensure a skilled workforce for renewable energy, broadband and

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telecommunications, health care, advanced manufacturing, and other high demand and emerging industries and occupations which will drive national, state, and regional economic growth.

States are expected to use workforce and labor market information and data as the foundation on which to build and implement sound workforce development investment decisions and strategies. To achieve this, states and workforce information grantees are encouraged to leverage grant funding with Recovery Act funds.

### **FY 2009**

The Department received \$51,720,000 in FY 2009 to support these activities. Within the amount requested for One-Stop Career Center and Labor Market Information, ETA was directed to fund workforce information grants to States at not less than \$32 million and to direct \$2,500,000 for competitive grants to States agencies to identify job openings and skill requirements for the energy efficiency and renewable energy industries and to refer workers to job openings and training programs.

The remaining \$17,220,000 funds the national infrastructure, O\*NET, CareerOneStop.org, performance accountability infrastructure, and knowledge sharing e-learning platform described above.

For FY 2009, the goal is to advance the development of workforce information, products, tools, and services that support the national recovery, global competitiveness, economic stimulus, worker reemployment, and growth of green jobs. States are expected to use workforce and labor market information and data as the foundation on which to build and implement sound workforce development investment decisions and strategies. To achieve this, states and workforce information grantees are encouraged to leverage grant funding with Recovery Act funding.

The Department will continue to support the activities of the CareerOneStop portal and the Occupational Information Network (O\*NET) data collection and dissemination to ensure users have access to information that will enable them to explore career options, assess their transferable skills, identify skill gaps and needed education and training to transition to new careers in sectors of the economy that are still in need of workers.

The workforce system will play a vital role in America's economic recovery by assisting workers who are facing unprecedented challenges to retool their skills and re-establish themselves in viable career paths. Through collaboration with partners from labor management organizations, and occupational and business and industry associations, the Department will create or update industry-driven competency models for key sectors, disseminate the information and maintain support for tools that allow partners in regional economies to map out the career ladders that exist in their local labor market so that workers can retool their skills and establish themselves in viable career paths based on the skills and competencies needed.

The Department will continue to support activities that enhance the capacity of the workforce investment system, such as the sharing of innovative and promising practices around providing

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reemployment services, strategic partnerships, collaboration, and leveraging resources in support of regional economic recovery and global competitiveness through its knowledge sharing portal.

### **Recovery Act**

No specific funds were provided under ARRA for this line item.

### **FY 2008**

ETA received \$52,059,000 in FY 2008. Key activities in FY 2008 included improved provision of career information and guidance on in-demand occupation and high growth industry sectors, continued collaboration with business and industry, increased efforts to connect customers to the Workforce Investment System, the maintenance of basic critical infrastructure, and funding for development and dissemination of workforce information products.

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<b>WORKLOAD SUMMARY (Dollars in Thousands)</b>			
	<b>FY 2008 Actual</b>	<b>FY 2009 Target</b>	<b>FY 2010 Target</b>
<b>Workforce Information/National Electronic Tools/System Building</b>			
<b>Site visits for CareerOneStop, O*NET, and Career Voyages (in millions)</b>	37.1	39.8	41.75
<b>Budget Activity Total</b>	\$52,059	\$51,720	\$51,720

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### PERFORMANCE GOAL AND INDICATORS

<b>Build a demand-driven workforce system by increasing the accessibility of workforce information through the National Electronic Tools.</b>										
<b>Performance Indicator</b>	<b>PY 2005</b>		<b>PY 2006</b>		<b>PY 2007</b>		<b>PY 2008</b>		<b>PY 2009</b>	<b>PY 2010</b>
	<b>Goal Achieved</b>		<b>Goal Achieved</b>		<b>Goal Not Achieved</b>					
	<b>Target</b>	<b>Result</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Result</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Result</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Result</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Target</b>
1. Number of page views on America's Career InfoNet.	Baseline	61.4 million	62 million	87.2 million	Baseline	142.5 million	--	RNA	--	--
2. Number of O*NET site visits	3.9 million	7 million	7.5 million	9.7 million	12 million	10.6 million	11.25 million	RNA	12 million	12.75 million
3. Number of page views on Career Voyages	Baseline	7.9 million	8.5 million	10.9 million	12.5 million	10.8 million	--	--	--	--
4. Number of CareerOneStop site visits	--	--	--	--	Baseline	23.6 million	24 million	RNA	25 million	26 million
5. Number of Career Voyages site visits	--	--	--	--	Baseline	2.1 million	2.4 million	RNA	2.8 million	3 million
<b>Baseline(s):</b> A baseline for measuring the number of page views for America's Career InfoNet was collected in PY 2007 due to the closure of America's Job Bank on June 30, 2007.										
<b>Data Source(s):</b> Since PY 2005, data for America's Career InfoNet have been provided by Minnesota (grantee). Web statistics for O*NET and CareerOneStop are provided by the state grantees using AWstats and WebTrends software. Career Voyages statistics are provided by ETA's <i>Workforce System Results</i>										
<b>Comments:</b> ETA is proposing new measures for PY 2008 and beyond to OMB. The proposed measures for National Electronic Tools are to use site visits for all of the measures, rather than page views for two of them. The industry standard for measuring the traffic to a Web site has evolved over time to be site visits because this measure is more stable and less easily manipulated than other Web site metrics. The proposed new measures are: (1) number of O*NET site visits, (2) number of CareerOneStop site visits, and (3) number of Career Voyage site visits.										

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<b>BUDGET ACTIVITY by OBJECT CLASS</b>						
(Dollars in Thousands)						
		<b>FY 2008 Enacted</b>	<b>FY 2009 Enacted</b>	<b>Recovery Act</b>	<b>FY 2010 Request</b>	<b>Change FY 10 Req / FY 09 Enacted</b>
41.0	Grants, subsidies, and contributions	52,059	51,720	0	51,720	0
<b>Total</b>		<b>52,059</b>	<b>51,720</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>51,720</b>	<b>0</b>

# WORKFORCE INFORMATION/ELECTRONIC TOOLS/SYSTEM BUILDING

## CHANGES IN FY 2010 (Dollars in Thousands)

<b>Activity Changes</b>		
<b>Built-In</b>		
To Provide For:		
<b>Built-Ins Subtotal</b>		<b>0</b>
	<b>Estimate</b>	<b>FTE</b>
<b>Base</b>	<b>51,720</b>	<b>0</b>