



June 13, 2011

OMB Desk Officer for the Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration
Office of Management and Budget, Room 10235
Washington, DC 20503

Via email: OIRA_submission@omb.eop.gov

Re: Comments on the proposed data collection for One-Stop Workforce Information Grant Plan and Annual Performance Report

I am pleased to respond to the notice in the May 13, 2011 Federal Register asking for comments regarding the Employment and Training Administration (ETA) information collection request "One-Stop Workforce Information Grant Plan and Annual Performance Report."

As a research professor at the George Washington Institute of Public Policy, I focus on federal policies and programs that support job creation and economic competitiveness. From this perspective, I believe that ETA's Workforce Information Grant program significantly improves the operation of state and local labor markets, increasing the likelihood that students and workers choose education and training that lead to jobs with labor market value and that employers can hire workers with the desired skills. (I discuss the value of this grant program in my 2010 report ["Putting America to Work: The Essential Role of Federal Labor Market Statistics,"](#) attached.) Consequently, I am pleased to support ETA's request to collect information through the Workforce Information Grant Plan and Annual Performance Report.

That said, I request that OMB direct ETA to modify the Training and Employment Guidance Letter (TEGL) for PY2011 Workforce Information Grants to States to require states to use workforce information to guide the expenditure of ETA training and employment grants to states. In FY2011, ETA will provide over \$3 billion in training and employment grants to state and local governments; the President requested a similar amount for FY2012. In light of the slow recovery from the recession and the need to close budget gaps, it is imperative that ETA training and employment funds be spent in ways that maximize impact. With appropriate direction from Assistant Secretary Oates, ETA's \$32 million workforce information grant program can lead to the generation of state reports on labor supply and demand that can guide such wise, effective expenditures a thousand times greater in magnitude. However, at present, ETA does not require that workforce information generated by the former to inform the latter.

Consequently, I request that OMB direct ETA to add language in the TEGL that requires grantees to develop and use workforce information to guide the state's expenditure of ETA training and employment grant funds. For your consideration, I have inserted suggested language in the TEGL, attached.

Thank you for your consideration of my support and suggestions regarding ETA's important workforce information grant program. I look forward to your decision.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andrew Reamer". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "A".

Andrew Reamer, Research Professor
George Washington Institute of Public Policy
George Washington University