

Cross Agency Priority Goal: Job Training

FY2013 Q1 Status Update

Cross Agency Priority Goal Statement

Ensure our country has one of the most skilled workforces in the world by preparing 2 million workers with skills training by 2015 and improving the coordination and delivery of job training services.

Goal Leader

Portia Wu, Special Assistant to the President for Labor and Workforce Policy, White House Domestic Policy Council

About this document

The Cross-Agency Priority (CAP) Goals were a key innovation introduced in the FY2013 Federal Budget. These goals focus on 14 major issues that run across several Federal agencies. Each of these historic goals has a Goal Leader who is a senior level White House official and is fully accountable for the success and outcomes of the goal.

Historically, areas of shared responsibility for multiple government agencies have been resistant to real progress. Success in these areas requires a new kind of management approach – one that brings people together from across and outside the Federal Government to coordinate their work and combine their skills, insights, and resources. The CAP Goals represent Presidential priorities for which this approach is likeliest to bear fruit.

This report discusses one of these CAP Goals, the Job Training Goal, in detail, describing the plan for achieving the goal and the current status of progress. To see the full list of CAP Goals and to find out more about them, we encourage you to visit performance.gov.

Contents

Overview	2
Strategies	2
Progress Update	4
Indicators	5
Milestones Accomplished to Date.....	5
Milestones for the Upcoming Quarter.....	6
Longer-term Milestones	7
Contributing Programs and Other Factors	7
Additional References.....	8

Overview

A skilled workforce is key to U.S. competitiveness in the global economy. In the coming years, our nation will have millions of skilled positions in industries ranging from healthcare to advanced manufacturing, green energy to information technology, and many of these jobs will be high-skilled jobs. Having access to high-quality job training is essential for workers to succeed in the growing and changing U.S. economy, and for the U.S. to remain a global economic leader.

To address these issues, this goal brings together the multiple Federal agencies that support job training to improve the quality and coordination of Federal job training programs. The Administration has announced a comprehensive plan to improve our workforce development system, including proposals to enhance services available to workers who have lost their jobs, expanding investment in community colleges and their partnerships with businesses and communities to train skilled workers, and reinvigorating American Job Centers around the country that help people make smart choices about what training to pursue. The Administration will also continue several ongoing efforts to support the testing and replication of innovative and evidence-based approaches to job training through the Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training grants and the Workforce Innovation Fund. These efforts also include a focus on enhancing program coordination, performance reporting, and overall accountability among agencies that operate job training programs. These improvements will increase both the efficiency and effectiveness of the federal job training system so that American workers can get the training, skills, and credentials they need to hold the jobs of the future.

Strategies

The primary focus of the Job Training CAP Goal is to improve the coordination and quality of current job training programs and services and to improve information about program performance and effective workforce development models and approaches. This goal will be accomplished by meeting the following main objectives:

- **Continued delivery of effective and efficient job training programs.** By supporting innovative and effective job training programs, the federal government will offer the best training and education for Americans seeking new and better jobs.
- **Better access to services through better coordination of current programs.** By coordinating across federal agencies that operate job training programs, the Administration will improve access to training programs, online tools, and American Job Centers that best meet the needs of jobseekers.
- **Increased accountability and information about what works to drive improvement.** By improving the availability and sharing of information about the performance of job training programs, federal agencies and training providers will be able to implement approaches and interventions that work.

More specifically, this goal will be furthered by advancing the following strategies to provide career guidance and training to job seekers:

- **Invest in Community Colleges:** Community colleges are significant and rapidly growing contributors to the nation's higher education system, enrolling more than 7 million students each year, and roughly 40 percent of all post-secondary students. The Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training grant program has awarded \$1 billion to programs of two years or less that train displaced workers and others for growing industries. The program will award an additional \$1 billion over the next two years. The President's 2013 Budget also proposes an \$8 billion Community College to Career Fund in the Departments of Education and Labor to support State and community college partnerships with businesses to build the skills of American workers.
- **Reform Workforce Investment Act programs:** The President's 2013 Budget provides \$125 million for a Workforce Innovation Fund, which will use rigorous evaluation to support systemic reform and identify training strategies that are most effective for helping workers earn industry-recognized credentials and achieve success in careers. It also proposes to streamline and modernize how the training system provides services to workers who have lost their jobs.
- **Reauthorize and reform the Career and Technical Education (CTE) program,** which is currently set to expire at the end of fiscal year 2012. The Administration's reauthorization proposal would restructure CTE to increase the rigor and relevance of what students learn in school to more closely align with the demands of the 21st century economy and workforce, while creating stronger linkages between secondary and postsecondary education. The proposal also would promote innovation and reform in CTE.
- **Expand Career Academies by 50 percent** through a new \$1 billion investment (proposed in the President's 2013 budget) that will increase the number of career academies to 10,000, enrolling 500,000 more students. Career Academies are small learning communities located within high schools that provide career awareness and work-based learning opportunities for students. Academies focus on a career theme, such as health sciences, law, business and finance, and pre-engineering.
- **Help workers build skills while on the job:** Building on successful Recovery Act programs that provided job opportunities for long-term unemployed and low-income adults and youth, the President's 2013 Budget includes a \$12.5 billion Pathways Back to Work Fund to make it easier for workers to remain connected to the workforce and gain new skills for long-term employment. This initiative will include support for summer- and year-round jobs for low-income youth, subsidized employment opportunities for unemployed and low-income adults, and other promising strategies designed to lead to employment.
- **Increased access and accountability:** Agencies will improve access to the American Job Center network, enhance online tools, and increase coordination among government programs and services. They will also improve access to data with the goal of publicizing more information about training program performance. Better performance information

will allow job seekers to choose the training program that best fits their needs while holding providers responsible for delivering high quality programming.

Some of these initiatives will depend on new budget resources or congressional action while others can be accomplished through administrative action or leveraging existing resources. In order to ensure effective and efficient implementation and coordination of these and other agency and private sector efforts, the Goal Leader will regularly convene agencies and review progress against performance targets, looking for and assuring follow up on opportunities for improvement.

Progress Update

The federal government can make significant progress toward meeting the goal of preparing 2 million workers with skills training by 2015 with existing programs. To guide and drive the work of the Job Training CAP Goal, an interagency working group was established and is comprised of the key agencies that operate job training programs across the federal government. The working group meets regularly to share information on the individual job training programs and collective job training initiatives. Greater insight into what approaches are working and where there are opportunities for collaboration will help lead to a more effective and efficient federal job training system.

The working group set as its first objective improving the collection, reporting, and sharing of performance information and data across job training programs. Working with and across agencies to improve and expand access to job training performance data, and to promote the adoption of best practices in data sharing, will ultimately contribute to better alignment of job training programs and eventually will assist job training providers to design, and job seekers to select, better programs. The job training working group will focus on implementing the objectives and producing the deliverables identified in the coming quarters.

In order to assess how we are progressing in training more workers for skilled jobs, federal agencies were surveyed to compile a list of all job training programs in the federal government, including a number of all participants served by those programs. The working group is developing a baseline by which we can assess progress on this goal.

Beyond working to set a baseline for measuring progress and to increase access to performance data as members of the interagency working group, individual agencies have made significant strides to improve coordination, access, and accountability across the federal job training system, from federal agencies to local providers. Accomplishments to date include:

- **Expanding local community college-business partnerships.** The Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training (TAA-CCCT) expands the ability of community colleges to prepare older workers for high-skill, high-wage jobs. In September 2012, the Department of Labor awarded the second of four rounds of grants (totaling \$500 million each) to leading community colleges in all 50 states to create and expand innovative partnerships between community colleges and businesses to train workers with the skills employers need.

- **Supporting job training for high-tech, high growth jobs.** The H-1B Technical Skills Training Grants focus on providing skills training and placement assistance for American workers who are looking for good jobs and reducing the reliance on foreign workers for high-skilled, U.S. jobs. In February 2012, the Department of Labor awarded \$183 million in grants to support public-private partnerships that match skills training with business needs.
- **Investing in innovative job training programs that help Americans get back to work.** The Workforce Innovation Fund (WIF) is designed to better assess the effectiveness of various job training strategies and increase knowledge about what works in workforce development. In June 2012, the Department of Labor awarded \$147 million in grants under the WIF.
- **Promoting the building of career pathways** to serve low-skilled workers more efficiently and effectively. Career pathways is a promising strategy that aligns education, training, and social services to help move low-skilled youth and adults along a pathway that leads to marketable skills, industry-recognized credentials, and good jobs. In April 2012, the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education launched an initiative to encourage states to adopt a career pathways approach to their job training efforts by aligning Federal and state resources, coordinating the delivery of job training services and social service supports, and building strong linkages to local and regional employers.
- **Launching the American Job Center website.** The creation of an American Job Center network will help to unify all federally-supported One-Stop Career Centers under one name and electronic resources in one place. Jobseekers will be able to visit one website to find out what job training resources are available to them and businesses will be more connected to the workforce system in their communities.

Indicators

This goal currently utilizes milestones to show progress. As part of the CAP Goal effort, the working group will be developing indicators to continue tracking progress against the goal in the future.

Milestones Accomplished to Date

- FY12 Q2 - Targeted \$183 million in H-1B Technical Skills Training Grants targeting industries in 28 states to train American workers for high-skill, high-growth jobs.
- FY12 Q3 - Invested \$147 million as part of the Workforce Innovation Fund to test and replicate effective approaches to job training.
- FY12 Q4 - Established a data access subgroup to foster greater access to performance data at the local, state, and federal levels to improve performance.

- FY12 Q4 - Awarded 2nd round of TAA-CCCT grants (\$500 million) to create and expand innovative partnerships between over 300 community colleges and local businesses in training thousands of students/workers.
- FY12 Q4 - ED, DOL, and HHS held National Dialogue on Career Pathways to discuss how to scale and replicate career pathways job training successes.
- FY12 Q4 - Launched American Job Center website that unifies all One-Stop Career Centers under one brand name for easy access by workers.
- FY 13 Q1 – DOL developed and used a program evaluation “checklist” for TAA-CCCT 2nd round grantees to assess the strength of grantee evaluation plans.
- FY13 Q1 – DOL and ED are exploring options for improving reporting on participant outcomes by training providers.
- FY13 Q1 – DOL and USDA have engaged in discussions about conducting joint research and evaluation activities for the SNAP Employment and Training program.
- FY13 Q1 – Through the Interagency Forum on Disconnected Youth, DOL, ED, HHS and other agencies have discussed strategies for how youth-serving programs, including education and training programs, could better coordinate services to disconnected youth. It will first work to dispel misperceptions about Federal laws and regulations that prevent effective collaboration across communities.
- FY 13 Q1 – Working with other agencies, DOL has explored the feasibility of and will develop a “what works” clearinghouse for job training programs. It will initially focus on programs serving disconnected youth.
- FY 13 Q1 – HHS has begun a cross-agency review of employment and training programs for special populations.
- FY13 Q1- DOL, ED and HHS have made a joint commitment to promote the continued expansion of state longitudinal data systems and the sharing of data across agencies and programs. The agencies plan to release a joint letter in 2013 to highlight best practices and make states aware of the resources available to enhance data linkages and usage.
- FY13Q1 – ED launched a technical assistance effort to support five states in Advancing Career Pathways. The effort uses Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act funding to bring together the secondary and postsecondary CTE systems with other career pathway efforts in states.

Milestones for the Upcoming Quarter

- Develop a performance data “checklist” that can be used by agencies in designing job training programs and evaluations prior to sending out grant solicitations.
- Convene a cross-agency performance measures subgroup to determine the objectives and milestones for increasing the use of enhanced job training outcome measures by agencies.

- Identify and convene two or more federal job training programs serving the same population to discuss and determine how to increase program coordination.
- Explore the feasibility of establishing a “what works” clearinghouse for Administration-wide job training programs.
- Develop a baseline for measuring the participants served by key federal job training programs to measure progress in subsequent quarters.

Longer-term Milestones

- Clarify Federal laws around accessing data relevant to job training performance and share best practices with states on how to increase usage of job training performance data for performance reporting, research and evaluation by FY13 Q3.
- Work with States to increase their compliance with the requirement for Workforce Investment Act training providers to report on their performance.
- Identify job training programs that would benefit from adoption of additional or enhanced job training performance measures.

Contributing Programs and Other Factors

The following is a partial list of the programs contributing to the Job Training CAP goal (other programs with potential to contribute to this goal may be identified over time):

Department of Labor:

- Workforce Investment Act (WIA) programs (Adult, Dislocated Worker, and Youth)
- WIA National Emergency Grants
- Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA)
- TAA Community College & Career Training grants
- High-Growth (H-1B) Job Training grants
- Workforce Innovation Fund grants
- Registered Apprenticeship programs
- Veterans job training programs
- Senior Community Service Employment Program
- Job Corps
- YouthBuild

Department of Education:

- Career and Technical Education
- Vocational Rehabilitation grants

Department of Health and Human Services:

- TANF Employment & Training
- Health Professions Opportunity Grants

Other Agencies:

- SNAP Employment & Training (Department of Agriculture)
- Youth Challenge grants (Department of Defense)
- Highway Surface Transportation and Technical Training (Department of Transportation)
- Vocational Rehabilitation grants (Department of Veterans Affairs)

Additional References

American Job Center website:

www.jobcenter.usa.gov