

# **Workforce<sup>3</sup>One**

## **Transcript of Webinar**

### **Target Populations and National Programs**

*Transcript By  
Federal News Service  
Washington, D.C.*

Hello, and thank you for tuning in to today's tutorial target populations and national programs. Today's speaker is Kim Vitelli, division chief of national programs, tools and technical assistance from the Office of Workforce Investment at the Employment and Training Administration at the United States Department of Labor.

**KIM VITELLI:** The Opportunity Act prioritizes program integration and high-quality services for people with disabilities and emphasizes competitive employment in an integrated setting as a program goal. Accessibility is prioritized as a criteria in the one-stop certification process. All one-stop centers must be physically and programmatically accessible for people with disabilities.

In the Title I youth and vocational rehabilitation programs, youth with disabilities will receive extensive pre-employment transition services so they can successfully obtain competitive, integrated employment.

State vocational rehabilitation agencies will set aside at least 15 percent of funding to provide transition services to youth with disabilities. Voc rehab state grant programs will engage employers to improve participant employment outcomes.

The Opportunity Act establishes a committee to advise the secretary of labor on strategies to increase competitive integrated employment for individuals with disabilities. The committee will include representation and leadership from several federal agencies and other stakeholders. This committee will start to meet in early 2015 and will deliver recommendations to the secretary of labor two years later.

At the local level, the local board must include representatives from the vocational rehabilitation program. The local board may also designate a standing committee to provide information and to assist with operational and other issues related to nondiscrimination compliance and accessibility requirements and may also establish a standing committee to provide input regarding appropriate training for staff on these issues.

Veterans will also receive high-quality integrated services under the Opportunity Act. As in WIA, the Opportunity Act programs must give priority of service to eligible veterans and spouses. The Opportunity Act expands eligibility for national dislocated worker grants to areas where a high number of dislocated service members need employment and training services. Military spouses are now included in the definition of dislocated worker and are eligible for Title I dislocated worker program services.

The Opportunity Act maintains the national farm worker jobs program and extends the grant period from two to four years. The Opportunity Act applies all of the common performance measures to the NFJP program. NFJP grantees are no longer required members of the local board. The local area has the option to include NFJP grantees on its board or its committees. NFJP remains a required partner in comprehensive one-stop centers.

The Opportunity Act also maintains the Indian and Native American program and extends the grant period from two to four years. The common performance measures that exist for other programs in the Opportunity Act also apply to the Indian and Native American program.

Like in NFJP, the Indian and Native American program grantees are not required to sit on local boards. But local areas may include the grantees on the board or its committees. The Employment and Training Administration is consulting with the Native American Employment and Training Council on Opportunity Act implementation and performance measures.

The YouthBuild program is also maintained under the Opportunity Act. In addition to construction, the Opportunity Act amends YouthBuild to specifically authorize activity and in-demand industries and occupations. YouthBuild grantees will report on the common performance measures. And the Opportunity Act changes the percentages of funds used for supervision, training and administration for YouthBuild grantees.

(END)