

**EFFECTIVE PRACTICES IN COORDINATING WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT  
AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS**

U.S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration

January 1998 – June 1999

**Project Summary:** This project involved a rapid response study for the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) on effective practices for coordinating workforce and economic development activities in communities affected by defense downsizing. The purpose of the project was to provide information on model approaches that enhance and streamline service delivery to job seekers and employers -- and ultimately, improve employment and training outcomes. The project was intended to inform local workforce development organizations about how to leverage and coordinate resources with economic development organizations, such as economic development corporations, manufacturing extension centers, local economic development agencies, small business development centers, and chambers of commerce.

Study findings were based primarily on site visits to eight local workforce development agencies that had linked with economic development agencies in response to major base closures/realignments or cutbacks in Department of Defense (DOD) contracts to private sector firms. Sites were targeted which met the following criteria: (1) initiatives that operated in communities that had been hard hit by defense cutbacks (such as base closings and loss of large defense contracts) -- particularly cutbacks resulting in substantial numbers of dislocated workers; (2) initiatives that involved effective and sustainable linkages between local economic development and workforce development programs -- particularly where coordination involved multiple organizations (such as One-stop Career Centers, PICs, educational organizations, Small Business Development Centers, Chambers of Commerce, industry associations, state technology programs, manufacturing extension programs and state extension services, and others; and (3) initiatives that offered innovative approaches using coordination to respond to worker dislocations, such as One-stop Career Centers, fee-for-service systems, networks of service providers, and on-line services facilitating broader outreach to customers.

**Report:** J. Trutko, D. Palminteri, and J. Bannon, *Effective Practices in Coordinating Workforce Development and Economic Development Programs*, James Bell Associates, Inc., prepared for the Employment and Training Administration, Department of Labor, 1999.