

VOUCHERS UNDER THE JOB TRAINING PARTNERSHIP ACT:**LESSONS FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WORKFORCE INVESTMENT ACT**

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

September 1998 – February 1999

Project Summary: The Workforce Investment Act (Public Law 105-220), signed into law August 7, 1998, substantially revamped the employment and training system in the United States. An important part of WIA -- and a focus of this study -- is its emphasis on empowering individuals with customer choice through Individual Training Accounts (ITAs) and provision of high quality information about training providers and their programs. WIA requires, with some limited exceptions, that ITAs be used to purchase training paid out of the adult and dislocated worker funding streams under the Title I of the Act. States and local boards have the option of setting limitations on the amount and duration of ITAs, of providing ITAs in a variety of ways including electronic transfer of funds or vouchers, and of determining payment policy, such as paying all fees upon enrollment or incrementally at different points in a training course. ITAs can be used only to supplement other funding, and individuals must be provided assistance in accessing other financing, such as Pell grants. This study focused on the experiences of local workforce development programs (i.e., Private Industry Councils) under the Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA) with vouchers and potential implementation issues that could arise under WIA. Project staff conducted site visits to nine local workforce development programs that used vouchers or voucher-like approaches in operating JTPA programs.

Reports:

J. Trutko and B. Barnow, *Vouchers Under the Job Training Partnership Act Program: Lessons for Implementation of the Workforce Investment Act: Final Report*, prepared for the Employment and Training Administration, Department of Labor, 1999.

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