

TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT NOTICE	NO. 1-10
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TO: STATE WORKFORCE AGENCIES
STATE WORKFORCE ADMINISTRATORS
STATE WORKFORCE LIAISONS
STATE AND LOCAL WORKFORCE BOARD CHAIRS AND DIRECTORS
ONE-STOP CENTER SYSTEM LEADS
FEDERALLY RECOGNIZED TRIBES

FROM: JANE OATES /s/
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Employment and Training Administration

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SUBJECT: Release and availability of Employment and Training Administration (ETA) quantitative evaluation report: *Use of One-Stops by Social Security Disability Beneficiaries in Four States Implementing Disability Program Navigator (DPN) Initiatives*

1. Purpose. To announce the release and availability of an ETA quantitative evaluation report: *Use of One-Stops by Social Security Disability Beneficiaries in Four States Implementing Disability Program Navigator (DPN) Initiatives.*

2. Background. ETA contracted with Mathematica Policy Research (MPR), Inc. to conduct a quantitative evaluation of the Disability Program Navigator (DPN) initiative through the use of the One-Stop Career Center system by Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) beneficiaries. The study was conducted with Colorado, Iowa, Maryland, and Oregon which were early implementers of the DPN initiative and were willing to share their Workforce Investment Act (WIA) adult and dislocated worker and Wagner-Peyser (W-P) data base information for the period Program Years (PY) 2002 – 2007. The data runs were matched with SSI and SSDI Ticket to Work (TTW) record system.

3. Publication Description. The purpose of the report is to determine if the impact of the DPN would effect WIA and W-P service and outcome levels for SSI and SSDI beneficiaries, it was also intended to gain understanding of the:

- Extent to which One-Stop Career Centers are serving persons who are SSA disability beneficiaries;
- Characteristics of SSI/SSDI beneficiaries receiving these services;

- Nature of the services received; and
- How services and outcomes for beneficiaries compared with SSI/SSDI beneficiaries nationally.

Key findings include:

- One-Stop Career Centers are serving a very large share of persons receiving Social Security Administration (SSA) disability benefits and the public workforce system is providing important support for SSA disability beneficiaries who want to work. These numbers greatly exceed the participation levels of beneficiaries in other programs (e.g., Vocational Rehabilitation).
- Although SSA beneficiaries represented only a tiny fraction of all One-Stop users, the One-Stop system is an important resource used by a substantial share of SSA beneficiaries who are seeking employment.
- SSA beneficiaries who used One-Stop services achieved positive employment outcomes. In Colorado, the employment rate ranged from 27 percent in PY 2004 to 36 percent in PY 2007; in Iowa the employment rate was 37 percent in PY 2005 to 42 percent in PY 2007; in Maryland the employment rate was 30 to 33 percent. While these are significantly lower entered employment rates than the overall rate for WIA programs, they are significantly greater than a comparable national average of 10 percent, the rate at which SSA beneficiaries enter employment.
- Of SSA beneficiaries who became employed after using One-Stop services, roughly 35 to 50 percent had earnings above the equivalent of the SSA substantial gainful activity (SGA) level. In contrast, data from another study (Livermore et al. 2009b) indicates that only 25 percent of working beneficiaries earn above the SGA level for one month on average.
- Employment retention rates (those who remained employed during the second and third quarter after exit) ranged from about 73 percent to 80 percent for the three states.
- During a 12 month period after exit, 11 to 24 percent of SSA cash benefits were reduced to zero compared to a national average of 6 percent identified in a different study covering a four year period (Livermore et al. 2009b).
- When former SSA beneficiaries are considered, along with current beneficiaries, the number and percentages accessing WIA and W-P nearly doubled in each state.
- There was a significant increase over time in the percentage of One-Stop Career Center users, who were receiving SSA disability benefits, who were identified in WIA and W-P program data as users with disabilities. “The steady and increasing trend...suggests that the DPN might have facilitated the collection of disability information, possibly by raising awareness of disability issues among staff and improving administrative processes.”

- The Report did not find “strong evidence that the DPN Initiatives affected service use and employment outcomes of disability beneficiaries.” However, it also refers to the following mitigating factors which impacted on this finding: 1) data limitations and the manner in which the DPN initiatives were implemented make a rigorous assessment of the impacts of the DPN initiative not feasible; 2) persons with disabilities who use the One-Stop Career Center system often chose not to self-identify, resulting in significant under-reporting of the actual numbers of persons with disabilities being served by the One-Stop Career Center system; 3) the purpose of the DPN initiative was systems change, not direct services, therefore it is not possible to quantify the Navigators’ direct impact on increasing employment outcomes of persons with disabilities. In addition, issues out of the DPN’s control directly impact upon the employment outcomes of persons with disabilities (e.g., local unemployment situation) and their service use (e.g., lack of accessible transportation to the One-Stop Career Center).

4. **Availability.** To download the report, visit: <http://disability.workforce3one.org>.

5. **Inquiries.** Questions on the content of the report may be directed to Alexandra Kielty or Randee Chafkin, Division of Adult Services, Office of Workforce Investment, Employment and Training Administration, U.S. Department of Labor at (202) 693-3730, kielty.alexandra@dol.gov, or (202) 693-2723, chafkin.randee@dol.gov.