

TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT NOTICE	NO. 33-10
	DATE April 6, 2011

TO: STATE WORKFORCE AGENCIES
STATE AND LOCAL WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARDS
STATE ONE-STOP CENTER SYSTEM LEADS
STATE WORKFORCE LIAISONS

FROM: JANE OATES
Assistant Secretary

SUBJECT: Release and Availability of an Employment and Training Administration (ETA) Occasional Paper: *An Evaluation of the Priority of Service Provision of the Jobs for Veterans Act by the Workforce Investment System in Providing Services to Veterans and Other Covered Services*

1. Purpose. To announce the release and availability of an ETA Occasional Paper: *An Evaluation of the Priority of Service Provision of the Jobs for Veterans Act by the Workforce Investment System in Providing Services to Veterans and Other Covered Services.*

2. Background. The purpose of this study was to provide ETA with an independent evaluation of the implementation of the priority of service (POS) provision of the Jobs for Veterans' Act (JVA) of 2002. Under JVA, the Department of Labor (DOL) is required to evaluate if veterans and other "covered persons" are receiving priority of service. Additionally, this evaluation effort was initiated in response to an action item ETA identified relative to recommendations made by the Government Accountability Office (GAO) in *Veterans' Employment and Training Services: Labor Actions Needed to Improve Accountability and Help States Implement Reforms to Veterans' Employment Services* (report number GAO-06-176), issued in December 2005 to improve accountability and help states integrate veteran services in One-Stop Career Centers.

3. Publication Description. The research underlying this report was accomplished essentially prior to the issuance of Department of Labor guidance to implement the priority of service provisions under JVA. Therefore, this study should be viewed as a snapshot of a point in time prior to the issuance of regulations and administrative guidance. The report provides some baseline information that will help inform future research and evaluation efforts DOL is considering.

4. Caveat. It is important to note that key data collection activities conducted under this study were accomplished prior to or just shortly after the Veterans' Employment and Training Service (VETS) issued the final rule on "Priority of Service for Covered Persons" in the Federal Register (December 19, 2008). Specifically, the data collection activities took place from December 2007 until April 2009 and the final report does not address the action that ETA and VETS have taken to ensure the workforce system implements POS.

In November 2009, ETA and VETS issued concurrent guidance on implementing POS in the workforce system through the issuance of ETA's Training and Employment Guidance Letter (TEGL)10-09 and VETS' issuance of Veterans' Program Letter 07-09. The concurrent guidance provided comprehensive direction for implementing POS in the workforce system. The guidance directed program operators to review their existing policies and procedures and make any changes necessary to implement POS consistent with the final rule. If program operators did not have policies and procedures in place, TEGL 10-09 required them to do so. ETA has also provided subsequent guidance on implementing POS at regional conferences and forums. To further amplify the information contained in the concurrent guidance and to assist state and local workforce agencies in their strategic planning efforts, ETA and VETS jointly issued Training and Employment Notice 15-10, *A Protocol for Implementing Priority of Service for Veterans and Eligible Spouses*, in November 2010. The most recent program data available (for Program Year 2009) indicates that veterans comprised 8.0 percent of the adult civilian labor force and that their participation rate in DOL adult employment and training programs was 7.5 percent of total participation.

5. Inquiries. To view an abstract of this publication, as well as to download the report, visit the ETA Occasional Paper Series Web site at: <http://wdr.doleta.gov/research/keyword.cfm>.