

TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT NOTICE	<b>NO.</b> 45-10
	<b>DATE</b> June 24, 2011

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

FROM: JANE OATES /s/  
 Assistant Secretary

SUBJECT: Release and Availability of Employment and Training Administration (ETA)  
 Occasional Paper, *Evaluation of the Career Advancement Accounts  
 Demonstration Project: An Implementation Study (Interim Report)*

**1. Purpose.** To announce the release and availability of the ETA Occasional Paper, *Evaluation of the Career Advancement Accounts (CAA) Demonstration Project: An Implementation Study (Interim Report)*, prepared by Social Policy Research (SPR) Associates.

**2. Background.** ETA launched the CAA demonstration in the fall of 2006. Taking the voucher approach exemplified by Individual Training Accounts one step further, under the CAA demonstration, workers were given an account of up to \$3,000 per year for up to two years, which they could use to pay for tuition, books, and fees associated with the education or training services of their choice, so long as the training program lead to a portable, industry-recognized credential. Within these broad parameters, states had discretion to tailor the application of CAAs to their own needs.

Eight states either volunteered to participate in the CAA demonstration project or were selected based on labor market needs. Initially, the three states that volunteered — Indiana, Pennsylvania, and Wyoming — planned to operate broadly-targeted programs and the five selected states — Georgia, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, and Ohio — were to target workers affected by dislocations in the automotive industry. However, because many dislocated automotive workers were eligible for benefits under the Trade Adjustment Assistance program, the initial automotive states had to refocus their efforts on a much broader array of target groups.

ETA provided a total of \$1.5 million in grants to each state, and states were required to match the grants with an equal amount of funding from other sources over a two-year period. As such, total funding was \$24 million for the CAA Demonstration Project.

**3. Publication Description.** During 2008, SPR visited all states to conduct a limited number of interviews and structured discussions with state and local workforce investment system staff and CAA recipients, to learn about the CAA demonstration. This interim report offers an overview of the initial implementation of the demonstration project, describing how the participating States and Local Workforce Investment Areas, organized and implemented CAAs; what services, including recruitment efforts and referral activities, were provided to assist individuals in making an informed choice about CAAs; the training choices made by CAA recipients; the leveraging of other resources collected to match Federal funds; and the overall level of account and expenditure activity. A preliminary assessment of the early implementation of the project is also offered. A final report on the implementation and outcomes of the demonstration will be available in summer 2011.

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