

TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT
NOTICE

NO.

23-06

DATE

February 27, 2007

TO: All State Workforce Agencies and Liaisons
All Rapid Response Coordinators
All State One-Stop Leads

FROM: MARIA K. FLYNN /s/
Administrator
Office of Policy Development and Research

SUBJECT: Upcoming Evaluation of Rapid Response Services for Dislocated Workers

1. **Purpose.** To announce a new study to examine rapid response services, to request that state and local officials respond to a survey, and to thank state and local officials for their participation in the study.

2. **Background.** Under the Workforce Investment Act (WIA), rapid response services are provided in all states and many local One-stop systems. Although such services have been provided since the 1980's under different workforce programs, they have never been closely and systematically examined. ETA is therefore pleased to announce a new study of rapid response services, to be conducted by Social Policy Research Associates (SPR) of Oakland, California. Information from the study will potentially be of use in developing technical assistance, regulations, administrative guidance, and legislation. The study will explore the following questions:

- Who administers rapid response and who provides services?
- What are the most innovative and effective rapid-response approaches for laid-off workers and impacted businesses?
- How are rapid-response services linked to and coordinated with partner programs – as well as with new initiatives, at the local, regional and state level?
- How can we determine the effectiveness of rapid response services for newly dislocated workers and declining businesses?

This study includes three methods of data collection:

- a) A **survey** of all state rapid response coordinators and of local coordinators (in states that delegate rapid response to the local level). The survey will be conducted primarily over the Internet;
- b) **Site visits** to a total of nine state or local areas; and
- c) **Administrative data** from nine states.

The survey and site visits are to be conducted this spring and summer.

3. **Action Requested.** State and local rapid response coordinators are asked to respond in a timely manner to the upcoming Internet survey to be sent by SPR. State and local officials contacted by SPR for site visits or data are requested to assist in this study by providing information. The Department is grateful to state and local respondents for providing information for all the data collection activities in the study.

4. **Inquiries.** Direct any questions to the Federal Project Officer, Charlotte "Sande" Schifferes at schifferes.charlotte@dol.gov or (202) 693-3655.