

TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT NOTICE	NO. 7-06
	DATE August 15, 2006

TO: ALL STATE WORKFORCE LIAISONS
ALL STATE WORKFORCE AGENCIES

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

SUBJECT: Release and Availability of ETA Occasional Paper 2006-02: Building Relationships Between the Workforce Investment System and Faith-Based and Community Organizations: A Background Paper

1. Purpose. To announce the release and the availability of ETA Occasional Paper 2006-02: Building Relationships Between the Workforce Investment System and Faith-Based and Community Organizations: A Background Paper.

2. Background. A major goal of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 is to provide universal access to the information, services, training, and other tools Americans need to enter and advance in the workforce. Although grassroots faith-based and community organizations (FBCOs) have traditionally collaborated infrequently with the federal and state workforce investment systems, they are potentially valuable partners to the One-Stop system for several reasons.

FBCOs generally:

- are mission-driven, committed, and passionate;
- provide holistic services;
- know the population and community; and
- are located and trusted in the community.

In pursuit of developing collaborations between FBCOs and public agencies, ETA has awarded over \$25 million in grants nationwide to promote and sustain collaborations between FBCOs and the One-Stop system. ETA has asked Mathematica Policy Research to conduct an evaluation of grants provided to twelve workforce investment boards in 2004.

3. Publication Description. This report provides the foundation for the evaluation of specific partnerships between the workforce investment system and FBCOs and outlines the strategies developed by the grantees to assist some of the hardest-to-serve populations, including ex-offenders, those with disabilities and individuals with limited English proficiency, that are the focus of this evaluation.

4. Availability. To download the full report or executive summary as a PDF, visit the ETA Occasional Paper series Web site at: <http://wdr.doleta.gov/research/keyword.cfm>. To reserve and request a hard copy of this publication, call the order line at 202-693-3666, or write the Regulations Team, Division of Policy Legislation and Regulations, Office of Policy Development and Research, Employment and Training Administration, U.S. Department of Labor, 200 Constitution Avenue, N.W., Room N5637, Washington, D.C. 20210.