

**IDENTIFYING EXEMPLARY PRACTICES IN THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR'S H1-B TRAINING
PROGRAM FOR UNEMPLOYED AND DISLOCATED WORKERS**

U.S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration, Office of Workforce Security

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Project Summary: In October 1998, Congress enacted the Competitiveness and Workforce Improvement Act of 1998. A major provision of the Act was the establishment of a fee to be paid by those employers importing foreign workers to the United States under the H-1B visa authority. The H-1B visas are used by employers to bring high-skilled workers to the United States for a period of up to three years. The fee, initially set at \$500 per H-1B worker and subsequently increased to \$1,000, is to be used, in part, for U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) “demonstration programs and projects that provide technical skills training for U.S. workers in an attempt to increase the pool of workers in the United States with the skills necessary to fill high-tech jobs.” Demonstration projects have been funded through a series of grant competitions.

This task order project involved an assessment of skill training programs of six of the 43 projects funded in the first three rounds of competition: Pima County, Arizona; Hampden County, Massachusetts; Anchorage, Alaska; New York City, New York; the State of Vermont; and Clarksville, Tennessee. The study team (from Capital Research Corporation and Johns Hopkins University) conducted visits to six H-1B visa funded demonstration projects featuring innovative training programs in high wage occupations (particularly the information technology sector) for incumbent and unemployed workers. Interviews were conducted with grantee program administrators and staff, partnering training providers, employers, and participants. Following each visit project summaries were developed, which highlighted exemplary practices, implementation barriers and how they were overcome, and extent to which projects were replicable. A final report was prepared which compared and contrasted approaches undertaken across sites and highlight innovative practices.

Report: B. Barnow, J. Kaiser, and J. Trutko, *Identifying Exemplary Practices in the U.S. Department of Labor's H-1B Training Program For Employed, Unemployed, and Dislocated Workers*, Coffey Communications, prepared for the Employment and Training Administration, Department of Labor, 2002