TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT NOTICE	NO. 7-07
	DATE August 27, 2007

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

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

SUBJECT: Release and Availability of *ETA Occasional Paper 2007 – 07 – Ready4Work Peer Review of Data Collection Final Report*

1. Purpose. To announce the release and the availability of *ETA Occasional Paper 2007 – 07* titled *Ready4Work Peer Review of Data Collection.*

2. Background. The Ready4Work program, launched in 2003, is a national demonstration project managed by Public/Private Ventures (P/PV) that aims to reduce recidivism, and redress the personal and societal costs that recidivism poses. Ready4Work provides program services that are believed to facilitate successful reentry, including job training and placement services, case management, and mentoring. In April 2006, the Department of Labor contracted with Social Policy Research Associates (SPRA) to conduct a peer review and data validation of the Ready4Work program's data collection system. The study documented the reliability and validity of the data captured by Ready4Work grantees, and assessed the extent to which the data accurately captured the services provided and outcomes obtained under the initiative.

The report was requested by the Center for Faith-Based and Community Initiatives (CFBCI) to assure performance accountability of the Ready4Work project.

3. <u>Evaluation Findings.</u>
  ▪ One of the best practices observed was to have the project coordinator or other data manager serve as the single individual responsible for the management of the project's data. This individual helps to streamline the process and ensure accuracy in the data. Designating a single agency to provide as many of the supportive services as possible also helps to ensure the data is accurate.
  ▪ Employment outcomes were difficult to verify since a participant that secured *any* work was counted as a successful placement, regardless of how long the person worked, or if the job was a temporary placement.

- Collection of data for recidivism at the site level posed a concern. Although P/PV used the recidivism definition similar to the Bureau of Justice Statistics, staff at sites did not always use the same definition in calculating recidivism data. Recidivism data were difficult to collect because the figures were generally not tracked at the local or state level, the few data that were available could not be disaggregated to compare with Ready4Work participants, and there was considerable variability in how recidivism was measured in different localities and jurisdictions.
- Overall, P/PV used statistical and analytic methods that were technically sound and appropriate for determining outcomes. In addition, there was sufficient documentation to allow replication of these statistical and analytic methods by external reviewers.

To learn more about this publication's findings, please see the attached "Summary and Implications" document.

4. Availability. To view an abstract of this publication as well as to download the full report as a PDF, visit the ETA Occasional Paper series Web site at: http://wdr.doleta.gov/research/keyword.cfm.

To request a hard copy of this publication, please write: the Dissemination Team, Division of Policy, Legislation and Dissemination, Office of Policy Development and Research, Employment and Training Administration, U.S. Department of Labor, 200 Constitution Avenue, NW, Room N5641, Washington, DC 20210; or call the publication order line at: (202) 693-3666.

5. Attachment. *Ready4Work Peer Review of Data Collection, Summary and Implications.*