

TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT NOTICE	NO. 34-08
	DATE March 12, 2009

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: THOMAS M. DOWD 
Administrator
Office of Policy Development and Research

SUBJECT: Release and Availability of the *Interim Report: Assisting Newcomers through Employment and Support Services: An Evaluation of the New Americans Centers Demonstration Project in Arkansas and Iowa*

1. **Purpose.** To announce the release and availability of the *Interim Report: Assisting Newcomers through Employment and Support Services: An Evaluation of the New Americans Centers Demonstration Project in Arkansas and Iowa* prepared by The Urban Institute.

2. **Background.** In July 2005, the U.S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration (ETA) awarded three-year demonstration grants in the amount of \$850,000 each to Iowa Workforce Development and Arkansas Department of Workforce Services to establish New Americans Centers (NACs) in four local sites in each state. In existing One-Stop Career Centers and affiliated sites, Arkansas has established NACs, referred to as the New Arkansan Resource Network (NARN), in Rogers, Russellville, Malvern, and Little Rock. Iowa has established New Iowan Centers (NIC) in Council Bluffs, Des Moines, Marshalltown and Mount Pleasant. Iowa operates additional NICs with state funding. The ETA-funded demonstration project concluded in summer 2008.

NACs aim to assist newcomers and immigrants in becoming a part of the local community through employment and other appropriate supportive services, such as community service referrals, translation, language, civic responsibilities and occupational training, resettlement assistance, small business assistance, and technical and legal assistance concerning documentation and immigration assistance. The purposes of the grants are to promote stability and rapid employment with living wages for those individuals or family members who are without work or are in need of new work, speed the transition of new

immigrants into the communities in which they live, assist employers, and enhance the economic development opportunities of these communities.

3. Publication Description. The Urban Institute visited Arkansas and Iowa in spring 2007 to learn about the operations of the demonstration in each site and conduct a limited number of interviews with state and local workforce system staff as well as NARN and NIC staff. Topics of the interviews focused on planning and implementation activities, partnering with community and other agencies, project staffing, service delivery, participant enrollment and demographics, sustainability plans, and lessons learned. As part of this demonstration project, each state has been tracking total service delivery to individuals, employers, and the community. The attached Interim Report discusses the project in these terms and addresses what areas will be further explored in the Final Report due in summer 2009.

4. Availability. To download a PDF, or view or print the abstract, executive summary, or full report, please visit the ETA Occasional Papers Series Web site at <http://wdr.doleta.gov/research/keyword.cfm>.

To request a hard copy of this report, please call the publication order line at 202-693-3666, or write to the following:

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