

January 13, 1998

NCCCS/JTPA FIELD MEMO #98-02

TO: Presidents

FROM: Stephanie Deese, Associate Director
Workforce Development Section

SUBJECT: Job Training Partnership Act Eight Percent (JTPA 8%)
Planning Process for 1998-1999

NOTE: DEADLINE FOR SDA SUBMISSION OF JTPA
EIGHT PERCENT (8%) PROGRAM PRIORITIES IS FEBRUARY 23, 1998.

The strategic planning process for the implementation of the Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA) for Program Year 1998 (July 1, 1998 - June 30, 1999) has begun in each of the local JTPA Service Delivery Areas (SDAs). Any community college which desires to be involved in any JTPA programs, including the "Education Coordination and Grants: Eight Percent (8%)" programs administered by the Community College System needs to be in contact with the local SDA and its Workforce Development Board (WDB) in this planning process.

As you may recall, the strategic planning process requires that the local Workforce Development Board assign priorities to programs which it would like to see supported with the eight-percent (8%) funds. In compliance with this requirement, only those community colleges that have received a priority rating from the appropriate WDB for their planned JTPA eight-percent (8%) programs will be eligible to receive a Request for Proposals from the Community College System office.

The Job Training Reform Amendments of 1992 modified the provisions of eight-percent (8%) funds to be used to carry out projects that:

- 1) provide school-to-work transition services that increase the rate of graduation from high school, or completion of the recognized equivalent thereof

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- 2) provide literacy and lifelong learning opportunities and services of demonstrated effectiveness that:
 - i) enhance the knowledge and skills of economically disadvantaged individuals, and
 - ii) result in increasing the employment and earnings of such individuals.
- 3) provide statewide coordinated approaches, including model programs to train, place and retain women in non-traditional employment.

Additionally, the reform amendments required that all programs objectively assess the skill levels and service needs of all participants. This assessment included a review of basic skills, occupational skills, prior work experience, employability, interests, aptitudes and supportive service needs.

Coordination of services and linkages were at the center of the amendments and continue to be a major thrust of the JTPA. An increased emphasis on referrals and comprehensive services required that linkages be established with appropriate agencies to enhance services and minimize duplication. As a result, community colleges' eight-percent (8%) projects that operate within an SDA that has a chartered JobLink Career Center are encouraged to offer services through these centers.

The planning process for use of these dollars is conducted every two years, with this being the first year of a two-year planning cycle. Needs and priorities identified on the Attachment A will remain in effect through PY'99. Colleges selected for funding in PY'98 will have an optional second year of funding, assuming all appropriate parties including the WDB agree and performance outcomes are satisfactory. Funding of all grants is contingent upon the availability of funds to the system office. At this time, allocations for next year funding have not been, however we are not planning on any federal reductions in funds.

The SDAs and the colleges should use the Attachment A form to describe and prioritize needs in their local area that can be addressed with eight percent (8%) funds. Please describe only one project per form. SDAs are required to submit the completed forms to the Division of Employment and Training no later than February 23, 1998.

Attached is a copy of the Eight Percent set-aside policy and the Attachment A form. If you should have any questions, please contact me at (919) 733-7051 Ext. 456. Thank you.

SD/bl

Attachments

c: JTPA Coordinators
Barbara Bergman, DET

SDA Directors

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