

TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT NOTICE	<b>NO.</b> 39-10
	<b>DATE</b> May 13, 2011

**TO:** STATE WORKFORCE AGENCIES  
STATE WORKFORCE LIAISONS

**FROM:** JANE OATES /s/  
Assistant Secretary

**SUBJECT:** Release and Availability of *Employment and Training Administration (ETA) Occasional Paper: Examining a New Model for Prisoner Re-Entry Services: the Evaluation of Beneficiary Choice*

**1. Purpose.** To announce the release and availability of *ETA Occasional Paper: Examining a New Model for Prisoner Re-Entry Services: the Evaluation of Beneficiary Choice*.

**2. Background.** In July 2007, the ETA awarded grants under the Beneficiary Choice Contracting Program to five organizations to assist ex-offenders in re-integrating back into their communities. The cornerstone of the beneficiary choice approach was the participant's choice of the service provider that best met his/her needs. The demonstration included the added element of performance-based contracting for provision of reentry services. Thus, the demonstration provided ETA the opportunity to evaluate and learn from this effort to give participants the power to make an educated decision as to where to obtain services while also informing policy-makers on the issues surrounding performance-based contracting of social services.

ETA contracted with Mathematica Policy Research, Inc. to evaluate the implementation of the initiative, the short-term outcomes of participants, the costs of providing employment-related services, grantees' efforts to ensure that participants have a truly independent choice of service providers, and any lessons that can be learned from using a performance-based contracting approach for service provision.

**3. Publication Description.** The report provides information about the experiences of the five grantees as they implemented this new program. It describes the Beneficiary Choice model, the outreach and service approaches used by the grantees, the participants' overall characteristics and service use, and their employment and criminal justice outcomes. Information included in the report was gathered during visits to each grantee community and through intense discussions at grantee conferences sponsored by the Department of Labor. Of particular interest, the report describes grantees' efforts to ensure that participants have a truly independent choice of service providers. Because the model provided indirect funding to service providers, which included faith-based organizations, the demonstration also examined the extent to which faith-based or faith-infused religious services were provided to participants. The report concludes with a discussion of early successes and ongoing challenges faced by the grantees when implementing the indirect funding approach through performance-based contracting.

**4. Inquiries**. 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>