

recent years, and the resulting effects of rising workforce insecurity, the Employment and Training Administration will hold its second national research conference since the enactment of WIA. The conference will focus on issues related to trends, challenges and impacts of the macro-economy to workforce investment, significance of recent changes in workforce investment, workforce competitiveness in the global economy, changing business requirements, workforce security in our new economy, and major policy options to increase productivity by meeting the skill needs of business and promoting economic opportunities for the United States workforce. A plenary session is planned to discuss the soon-to-be published 2002–2007 plan and lay the groundwork for the 2004–2009 research plan.

This is a call for empirical/non-empirical papers related to workforce investment issues. ETA is seeking recently completed papers and papers that will be completed prior to the conference. We encourage contributions by researchers from academia, state or local agencies, business organizations, labor associations, research consulting firms and other relevant organizations. Possible topics may include, but are not limited to:

- Workforce Investment Act (program implementation and administration of adult, dislocated worker and youth programs; issues relating to WIA reauthorization).
- Skills Requirements of Employers (skills needed by employers in particular sectors and industries, the effect of new technologies, including the internet and e-commerce, on skill needs of employers).
- Changes in the Structure and Organization of Work (changes in tenure and the rise of contingent work arrangements).
- Effect of Contingent Work on Hiring Practices (the effect of hiring practices of employers and the job search behavior of individuals).
- Role of Intermediaries in the Labor Market (whether intermediaries offer new approaches and techniques that can be adapted by the public-sector employment and training community).
- Adaptability of the Unemployment Insurance Program to an evolving U.S. economy. (program administration, coverage, eligibility, benefit adequacy, benefit duration, reciprocity, benefit financing, economic stabilization, special populations and changing work patterns).
- Changes in Wages and Compensation (effect of education on workers' earnings).

- Wages and Compensation Trends (recent trends in the receipt of benefits, including health insurance and retirement benefits) Interventions (employment and training intervention responses to wage and compensation trends).

- Impact of technology, Internet and Labor Market Information on labor exchange processes.

- Education—Workforce Training Continuum (appropriate roles of public K–12 and higher education integrated with Workforce Investment System).

*Time and Place:* The conference will be held from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. on June 4, 2003 and from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on June 5, 2003 at the Holiday Inn, Capital Hill, 550 C Street, SW., Washington, DC 20024.

*Submission of Papers:* All papers submitted will be reviewed by a panel of DOL experts in the workforce development arena and presenters will be notified if their papers are selected. Papers reporting on research and development, evaluation studies, pilot efforts, or applied practices are encouraged. Selected papers selected for the conference will be published as part of the ETA Occasional Paper Series. Travel and accommodation for invited presenters will be paid by the Employment and Training Administration. If interested, please submit your paper and abstract if possible in hard copy and diskette/CD (Word) by March 1, 2003. Papers should be doubled-spaced and single sided. You will be notified by April 4, 2003, if your paper is selected; you will have to confirm your attendance by April 15, 2001. Please send your papers and abstract to the logistical contractor for this contract, HMA Associates, Inc., 1680 Wisconsin Avenue, NW., 2nd Floor, Washington, DC, 20007, Attn: Peggie Edwards-Jefferies. She may be reached at 202–342–8258. We also encourage submitting abstracts for papers that have not yet been completed, but will be completed before the deadline for submission of papers.

*Public Participation:* This Conference is open to the public; there is no registration fee. For registration information, please send name, address, e-mail address, affiliation, and telephone number to H.M.A Associates, Inc., 1680 Wisconsin Avenue, NW., 2nd Floor, Washington, DC, 20007, Attn: Peggie Edwards-Jefferies or email them to [hmaassociates.com](mailto:hmaassociates.com).

Signed at Washington, DC, this 5th day of February.

**Gerard F. Fiala,**

*Administrator, Office of Policy Development, Evaluation and Research.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

### Employment Standards Administration

#### Proposed Collection; Comment Request

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of Labor, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, conducts a preclearance consultation program to provide the general public and Federal agencies with an opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing collections of information in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA95) [44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)]. This program helps to ensure that requested data can be provided in the desired format, reporting burden (time and financial resources) is minimized, collection instruments are clearly understood, and the impact of collection requirements on respondents can be properly assessed. Currently, the Employment Standards Administration is soliciting comments concerning the proposed collection: 29 CFR part 825, The Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993. A copy of the proposed information collection request can be obtained by contacting the office listed below in the addresses section of this Notice.

**DATES:** Written comments must be submitted to the office listed in the addresses section below on or before April 14, 2003.

**ADDRESSES:** Ms. Hazel M. Bell, U.S. Department of Labor, 200 Constitution Ave., NW., Room S–3201, Washington, DC 20210, telephone (202) 693–0418, fax (202) 693–1451, E-mail [hbelle@fenix2.dol-esa.gov](mailto:hbelle@fenix2.dol-esa.gov). Please use only one method of transmission for comments (mail, fax, or E-mail).

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

##### I. Background

The Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 (FMLA), Public Law 103.3, 107 Stat. 6, 29 U.S.C. 2601, which became effective on August 5, 1993, requires private sector employers of 50 or more employees, and public agencies to provide up to 13 weeks of unpaid, job-protected leave during any 12-month