

TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT NOTICE	NO. 8-15
	DATE September 1, 2015

TO: STATE WORKFORCE AGENCIES
STATE WORKFORCE ADMINISTRATORS
STATE WORKFORCE LIAISONS

FROM: PORTIA WU /s/
Assistant Secretary

SUBJECT: 2015 Monitor Advocate and State Workforce Agencies (SWAs) Foreign Labor Certification National Training

1. **Purpose.** To inform SWAs, State Monitor Advocates (SMAs), and Foreign Labor Certification State Coordinators (FLCs) of the 2015 “Monitor Advocate and SWA Foreign Labor Certification Training,” sponsored by the Employment and Training Administration (ETA). The training will be held at the National Conference Center in Leesburg, Virginia, September 15-17, 2015. (See attachment for meeting agenda.)

2. **Background.** Wagner-Peyser Act regulations at 20 CFR 653.108(e) stipulate that all SMAs are required to attend training sessions conducted by ETA’s National and/or Regional Monitor Advocates. Regulations at 20 CFR 653.108(k) also require Monitor Advocates to establish ongoing liaison with other organizations serving farmworkers, and to meet frequently to better coordinate on improving the delivery of employment and training services to migrant and seasonal farmworkers (MSFWs) through the American Job Center network. Further, ETA Regional Monitor Advocates are required to meet with SMAs to discuss the states’ capabilities for providing services to MSFWs during the upcoming harvest season, as outlined at regulations at 20 CFR 658.603(f)(10). ETA’s Office of Foreign Labor Certification administers Foreign Labor Certification programs with the assistance of SWAs.

3. **Monitor Advocate and SWA Foreign Labor Certification Training.** This event will provide training and technical assistance to SMAs and FLCs at SWAs to better fulfill their responsibilities regarding services to MSFWs and to employers who intend to hire and bring foreign workers to the United States to perform labor or services of a temporary or seasonal nature under H-2A and H-2B programs. Specific objectives of the training sessions are to: 1) provide best practices to SMAs and FLCs to improve services and performance; 2) better integrate public workforce system services to MSFWs and agricultural employers; 3) better coordinate the enforcement of farmworker rights and protections; 4) facilitate the exchange of resources and strategies across states and agencies for serving MSFWs; and 5) provide technical tools to SMAs and FLCs that will help with processing of the job orders and referrals. The success of the Monitor Advocate network relies on ETA providing on-going training and technical assistance to SMAs that are on the front line in working with farmworkers. This training directly supports the Department of Labor’s mission to increase

employment opportunities and provide critical support and protections for MSFWs. Additionally, there is a critical need to train SWA staff for a successful implementation of the new H-2B regulations, published on April 29, 2015, beginning with October 1 applications. Specifically, this training will provide important technical assistance sessions for both the H-2A and H-2B programs that will address SWA increased responsibilities in processing of the H-2B job orders and enhanced recruitment activities of U.S. workers.

4. **Arrangements.** The “Monitor Advocate and SWA Foreign Labor Certification Training” will begin Tuesday, September 15, 2015, at 8:00 AM a.m. (Eastern) and will continue until 5:00 pm (Eastern) on Thursday, September 17, 2015, at 5:00 pm. The training will be held at the National Conference Center at 18980 Upper Belmont Place, Leesburg, VA 20176. Information on registration, the agenda, and hotel reservations will be provided by e-mail when available.
5. **Action Requested.** To comply with regulations set forth at 20 CFR 653.108(e), State Workforce Administrators are requested to allow SMAs, FLCs and other staff involved with farmworker-related services to attend the “Monitor Advocate and SWA Foreign Labor Certification Training.”
6. **Inquiries.** Please direct inquiries concerning this notice either to the ETA Regional Monitor Advocate serving your state or to the ETA National Monitor Advocate at NMA@dol.gov. For a list of ETA Regional Monitor Advocates and the states they serve, see attachment.

Attachments

- A. Meeting Agenda
- B. ETA Regional Monitor Advocates Listing