

TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT NOTICE	NO. 36-11
	DATE April 4, 2012

TO: ALL STATE AND LOCAL WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARDS
WIA 166 AND 477 GRANTEES
STATE WORKFORCE AGENCIES
STATE WORKFORCE LIAISONS
ONE-STOP CAREER CENTER LEADS

FROM: JANE OATES /s/
Assistant Secretary

SUBJECT: Joint Letter on Career Pathways from the U.S. Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration, the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Vocational and Adult Education, and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Administration for Children and Families

1. **Purpose.** To share the interagency support for career pathways systems building to meet the education and training needs of adults. This notice is also intended to encourage States and local areas to improve coordination and collaboration across the public workforce, adult basic education, career and technical education, and human and social service systems, thereby promoting the use of career pathways approaches and helping American workers advance successfully in the labor market.
2. **Background.** The attached joint letter reflects the commitment of the Departments of Labor, Education, and Health and Human Services to identify and promote areas of collaboration that support the successful expansion of career pathways systems. It is our hope that this Federal partnership focused on career pathways will be emulated across the nation and expanded in States and local areas that are already engaged in this work.

While millions of workers are still without jobs, employers continue to report difficulty finding skilled workers. The career pathways framework helps align education and training programs with the needs of employers and targeted industries within local, regional, or state economies to help individuals attain relevant certifications, connect successfully to work, and advance to higher levels of education and wages over time. By working collaboratively with education and social and human service agencies, Workforce Investment Boards can play many valuable roles to help develop or expand career pathways initiatives. Some of those roles include serving as an intermediary convening key agency and industry partners; sharing labor market information; providing skills assessments, skills matching and career navigation functions; funding training; and providing job search assistance.

3. **Inquiries**. Questions concerning this Training and Employment Notice should be directed to the appropriate Regional Office.
4. **Attachment**. See attached joint commitment letter.