

Federal Job Training and Employment Programs: Summary of Government Accountability Office (GAO) Findingsⁱ

In FY 2009, nine federal agencies spent approximately \$18 billion to administer 47 separate employment and job training programs.

All but three of the 47 programs *overlap with at least one other program* in that they provide similar services to similar populations – yet maintain separate administrative structures.

Only fiveⁱⁱ of the 47 job training and employment programs GAO surveyed had an impact studyⁱⁱⁱ completed since 2004 to evaluate whether outcomes (i.e., such as program participants actually securing a job) resulted from the program and not another cause.

About half the programs had **no performance review** since 2004.

As a result, GAO finds “**little is known about the effectiveness of most programs.**”

What’s more, the five impact studies that were conducted “generally found the effects of participation were not consistent across programs, with only some demonstrating positive impacts that tended to be small, inconclusive or restricted to short-term impacts.”

Two programs surveyed by the GAO tracked *only one outcome measure* – Conservation Activities by Youth Service Organization only tracks “customer satisfaction” and Women in Apprenticeship and Nontraditional Occupations only tracks “Other Positive Outcomes” as of fiscal year 2009.

In total, 9 of the 47 programs did not measure the number of program participants that were hired after their training.

Three programs *did not track any outcome measures in FY 2009* – Indian Vocational Training – United Tribes Technical College; Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Employment and Training Program; and the Transition Assistance Program.

ⁱ Government Accountability Office (GAO-11-92), “Multiple Employment and Training Programs: Providing Information on Co-Locating and Consolidating Administrative Structures Could Promote Efficiencies,” January 2011.

ⁱⁱ The five federal job training and employment programs that have had an impact study performed since 2004 include the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF); WIA Adult Program; WIA Dislocated Workers; National Guard Youth Challenge Program; and Reintegration of Ex-Offenders.

ⁱⁱⁱ According to the GAO, many researchers consider impact studies to be the best method for determining the extent to which a program is causing participating outcomes.