



JLARC's Evaluation Plan for the Unemployment Insurance Training Benefits Program

Briefing Report

Joint Legislative Audit & Review Committee
January 11, 2012

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Second Briefing Report

- JLARC was presented with the first briefing report in June 2011
 - Explained intent to proceed with plans for the Training Benefits evaluation, including hiring a consultant to assist with study design
- This second briefing report updates JLARC on the study design, including costs

Training Benefits: Additional Weeks of Income Support For Defined Unemployed Individuals



Benefit Type	Max. No. of Weeks	Search for Work Requirement?	Funding Source
Regular Unemployment	26	Yes, unless in approved training	Employer payroll taxes
Emergency Benefits <i>(Phase out by August 2012)</i>	53	Yes, unless in approved training	Federal
Extended Benefits <i>(ends February 2012)</i>	20	Yes, unless in approved training	Federal
Training Benefits	26	No	Employer payroll taxes

Intended to Enhance Skills & Earning Power for High Demand Occupations



- Eligible individuals are unemployed, in an approved training program that provides skills for an occupation in high demand, and in one of the following categories:
 - Unable to return to work because skills are no longer in demand
 - Low-income workers whose earnings will be enhanced
 - Member of the National Guard or honorably discharged from the military or National Guard in the past year
 - Have an injury or disability preventing them from working in their former job
- 3,148 participants in FY 2010; 2,392 in FY 2009

EHB 1091 (2011) Directs JLARC Evaluation



- JLARC to conduct a “thorough review and evaluation” of the Training Benefits Program, to include an assessment of whether it is:
 - Effective
 - Complying with legislative intent
 - Operating in an efficient and economical manner

Due Date for Study Has Three Triggers



- 1) Three years after 2012 implementation date of statute
- 2) Any year in which ESD is required to suspend obligation of program (when amount available is equal to or less than \$5 M)
- 3) Any year in which expenditures are more than \$25 M

ESD forecast indicates #2 and #3 are unlikely

JLARC's Study Approach Has Three Tiers for a Thorough Evaluation



Tier One: Process Evaluation	Describes the implementation and operation of the program	Methodology: Site visits, interviews, surveys
Tier Two: Gross Impact Analysis	Describes key facts about the program	Methodology: Descriptive report
Tier Three: Net Impact Evaluation with a Cost- Benefit Analysis	Determines whether the positive or negative outcomes of program participants are a direct result of the program, and assesses whether the program is cost-effective	Methodology: Statistical analysis

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Sample Questions That May Be Answered by Each "Tier"



Tier One: Process Evaluation	Are barriers encountered by those who attempt to access Training Benefits?
Tier Two: Gross Impact Analysis	How many students complete training and what are the costs?
Tier Three: Net Impact Evaluation with a Cost- Benefit Analysis	Did employment/wages change for participants as a result of the program? Is the program cost-effective?

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JLARC's Approach Leverages Existing Resources



Tier One: Process Evaluation

Site visits and interviews to be conducted by JLARC staff. A survey will require additional funding of \$72K in FY 2015 and \$48K in FY 2016

Tier Two: Gross Impact Analysis

Relies on existing ESD study required by Legislature. Additional data will be requested by JLARC from SBCTC and WTECB. No additional resources are required.

Tier Three: Net Impact Evaluation with a Cost- Benefit Analysis

JLARC plans to utilize ESD study projected to be published in January 2012; will refresh model with new data
Will require \$20K in FY 2012 for consultant review and assistance; and \$50K in FY 2015

Timeline and Contact Information



Report Evaluating Program: Dec. 2015

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