



# WASHINGTON REPORT

Prepared by *Education-Training Market Report*

MA-5 GUIDELINES PUBLISHED: Guidelines for new MA-5 program to hire and train disadvantaged workers will soon be distributed by U.S. Department of Labor and National Alliance of Businessmen (NAB). Still "hush-hush" guidelines, not yet available to business community and training subcontractors, calls for major expansion of NAB-JOBS program (Job Opportunities in Business Sector).

MA-5 was conceived during Johnson Administration but will be major reliance of Nixon in combatting hard-core joblessness. Program basically is expansion of present MA-4, which is limited to 50 cities. Administration looks to 500,000 job placements through new program.

As presently constituted, JOBS has resulted in signing of more than 800 contracts with 1,000 employers to train and employ some 80,000 disadvantaged workers. Expanded program is consistent with Nixon objective of private initiative to end poverty.

MA-5 will extend JOBS from present 50 to 125 cities. It will offer training and support funds to employers who hire hard-core as at present, and will expand effort to upgrading of already employed disadvantaged.

An individual employer or a consortium may qualify as MA-5 contractor under plan's Option-A. Employers who hire under Option A, or who have participated under MA-3 or MA-4 may obtain financial support for upgrading under plan's Option-B. Employers may contract to provide upgrading training to as many as 30 percent of disadvantaged workers hired under any JOBS program. Upgrading programs may be up to 18 months in duration.

Option A--the on-the-job training of newly hired disadvantaged workers--permits payments of from \$20 to \$60 per week per new hire to compensate employers to added costs. Payments are intended to cover job training which cannot be subcontracted, mandatory job counseling or job coaching and "whatever supportive services the

employer finds necessary to meet the needs of the hard-core, provided either in-house or under sub-contract." Supportive services are defined as follows:

"The range of supportive services typically considered when designing an employment program for the hard-core includes initial orientation, medical and dental services, job-related basic education, supervisory training, transportation, and child care services."

Although overall on-the-job training may run up to 18 months in length, job-related basic education must be encompassed over 320 hours. Orientation may take place over periods ranging up to 80 hours. Employers may receive assistance in designing and implementing programs from federally assisted skill centers, and such centers have priority in supplying education services to manpower programs by law.

Subcontractors, as at present, may be private profit-making training corporations or nonprofit institutions. Federal government neither encourages nor discourages use of subcontractors, and they will almost certainly be called upon to carry an increasing amount of services load in view of scope of program. There are presently only 47 skill centers in country, concentrated in larger cities and with limited staff capability.

Subcontractors may also be employed to meet orientation, education and counseling needs in upgrading contracts. Full costs of upgrading are expected to range from \$195 to \$800 per employe.

Interested subcontractors may consult local office of National Alliance of Businessmen for names of participating employers, or they may perform service by contacting and consulting with local employers and employer groups concerning participation. Profit and nonprofit organizations may become contractors, except for government agencies at any level.

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RESEARCH BUREAU PHASEOUT: ETMR has learned that Bureau of Research of Office of Education will be divided up into component parts and reassigned to related organizational units within agency.

Higher educational research, for example, will be assigned to Bureau of Higher Education, where component was originally. Vocational education research will be assigned to Bureau of Adult and Vocational Education, etc. Budget of Bureau of Research, which has been running about \$100 million annually, will be absorbed within budgets of so-called mother bureaus.

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