

August 29, 2003

DIRECTIVE:	JOB CORPS INFORMATION NOTICE NO. 03-05
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TO: ALL JOB CORPS NATIONAL OFFICE SENIOR STAFF
ALL JOB CORPS REGIONAL DIRECTORS
ALL JOB CORPS CENTER DIRECTORS
ALL JOB CORPS CENTER OPERATORS
ALL NATIONAL TRAINING AND SUPPORT CONTRACTORS
ALL OUTREACH, ADMISSIONS AND CTS CONTRACTORS

FROM: RICHARD C. TRIGG
National Director
Office of Job Corps

SUBJECT: Economic Impact Study of Job Corps Centers at Selected Sites

1. Purpose. To inform the Job Corps community of the National Office of Job Corps' decision to commission an economic impact study of Job Corps centers at selected sites.
2. Background. Job Corps' ability to continue to grow, provide quality services to more youth, and to have an even greater national impact depends partially on our ability to expand existing centers or develop new centers. Job Corps has demonstrated, through rigorous evaluation, its positive impact on participants, as well as its positive return on investment of federal dollars. However, to date, Job Corps has not fully evaluated the positive economic impact it has on the communities in which its centers operate. Our system will be well served by documenting the financial value that the presence of Job Corps centers creates for host communities—through our expenditures to build, maintain, and operate centers—and through the financial outlays of our students.
3. Purpose of the Study. The purpose of the study is to provide the Job Corps community and other key stakeholders with an estimate of the economic impact Job Corps facilities and programs have on the communities in which they operate. The study will examine fiscal, industry, workforce and economic development, and other data to develop an estimate of Job Corps' contribution to local economies. The study results will assist interested parties in making more informed decisions regarding resource allocation, program budgeting, and center planning. Further, identifying positive economic impacts will help balance (or negate) any possible negative perceptions that may be associated with locating a Job Corps center in a community.
4. Research Firm and Study Methodology. The research firm commissioned to conduct this study is Decision Information Resources, Inc. (DIR). DIR is a national research, evaluation, and

technical assistance firm that has provided a broad range of technical and support services to the national and regional offices of Job Corps over the past several years.

DIR, in consultation with the national office, will identify and select a cross-section of urban, rural, and large and small centers as the focus of this study. DIR researchers will conduct face-to-face and telephone interviews and other data collection methods, with the national and regional office staffs, center directors, operators, contractors, selected center staff, local Chambers of Commerce, and economic development councils, as part of their data collection and analysis strategy. DIR will also examine other data sources, such as operating budgets, procurement practices, center salaries, construction costs, student placement data, and other relevant resources, to develop a final report with findings and recommendations.

5. Action. Addressees should be prepared to lend their full support and cooperation to DIR's requests for data and information, including interviews, as part of this study. Addressees should also ensure that a copy of this Notice is distributed to the appropriate staff.

6. Expiration. Until superseded.

7. Inquiries. Questions concerning this Notice should be addressed to Edna Primrose at (202) 693-3135, or email to primrose.edna@dol.gov.