

**CONTESTING RECORD PROCEDURES:**

Direct all requests to contest or amend information to the system manager in accordance with the procedures outlined above. State clearly and concisely the information being contested, the reasons for contesting it, and the proposed amendment to the information sought.

**RECORD SOURCE CATEGORIES:**

Employee complainants, who select the ADR process to resolve their disputes; respondents; and the ADR mediator.

**EXEMPTIONS CLAIMED FOR THE SYSTEM:**

None.

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**DEPARTMENT OF LABOR****Office of the Secretary**

**Job Corps: Preliminary Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the Proposed Job Corps Center To Be Located North of Roosevelt Highway Between Washington Road and Interstate 285 in College Park, GA**

**AGENCY:** Office of the Secretary (OSEC), Department of Labor.

**ACTION:** Preliminary Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the Proposed Job Corps Center to be located north of Roosevelt Highway between Washington Road and Interstate 285 in College Park, Georgia.

**SUMMARY:** Pursuant to the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations (40 CFR part 1500-08) implementing procedural provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Department of Labor, Office of the Secretary (OSEC), in accordance with 29 CFR 11.11(d), gives notice that an Environmental Assessment (EA) has been prepared for a proposed new Job Corps Center to be located in College Park, Georgia, and that the proposed plan for a new Job Corps Center will have no significant environmental impact. This Preliminary Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) will be made available for public review and comment for a period of 30 days.

**DATES:** Comments must be submitted by July 18, 2007.

**ADDRESSES:** Any comment(s) are to be submitted to Michael F. O'Malley, Office of the Secretary (OSEC), Department of Labor, 200 Constitution Avenue, NW., Room N-4460, Washington, DC 20210, (202) 693-3108 (this is not a toll-free number).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Copies of the EA are available to interested parties by contacting Michael F. O'Malley, Architect, Unit Chief of Facilities, U.S. Department of Labor, Office of the Secretary (OSEC), 200 Constitution Avenue, NW., Room N-4460, Washington, DC 20210, (202) 693-3108 (this is not a toll-free number).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** This Environmental Assessment (EA) summary addresses the proposed construction of a new Job Corps Center near College Park, Georgia. The site for the proposed Job Corps Center is comprised of four parcels of land owned by VFH Captive Insurance Company which total approximately 25.4 acres. The property is currently undeveloped and wooded with the exception of three abandoned residential properties and an abandoned automotive repair garage.

The new center will require construction of ten (10) buildings including eight (8) single-story buildings and two (2) two-story buildings. The proposed Job Corps center will provide housing, training, and support services for approximately 515 students. The current facility utilization plan includes include a vocational-educational building, cafeteria/culinary arts building, child development center, recreation building, medical/dental building, maintenance/warehouse building, administration offices, and new dormitories.

The construction of the Job Corps Center on this proposed site would be a positive asset to the area in terms of environmental and socioeconomic improvements, and long-term productivity. The proposed Job Corps Center will be a new source of employment opportunity for people in the Atlanta Metropolitan area. The Job Corps program provides basic education, vocational skills training, work experience, counseling, health care and related support services. The program is designed to graduate students who are ready to participate in the local economy.

The proposed project will not have any significant adverse impact on any natural systems or resources. No state or federal threatened or endangered species (proposed or listed) have been identified on the subject property.

The Job Corps Center construction will not affect any existing historic structures, as there are no historic or archeologically sensitive areas on the proposed property parcel.

Air quality and noise levels should not be affected by the proposed development project. Due to the nature

of the proposed project, it would not be a significant source of air pollutants or additional noise, except possibly during construction of the facility. All construction activities will be conducted in accordance with applicable noise and air pollution regulations, and all pollution sources will be permitted in accordance with applicable pollution control regulations.

The proposed Job Corps Center is not expected to significantly increase the vehicle traffic in the vicinity, since many of the Job Corps Center residents will either live at the Job Corps Center or use public transportation. While some Job Corps Center students and staff may use personal vehicles, their number would not result in a significant increase in vehicular traffic in the area. Access is planned from Roosevelt Highway. Road improvements and/or installation of signals to facilitate site ingress/egress do not appear necessary. Public transportation will be provided by Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority which provides bus and shuttle routes throughout Metropolitan Atlanta. Bus Route 88 travels along Washington Road which bounds the west side of the proposed Job Corp Center site. There are a number of connecting bus routes within walking distance of the site.

The proposed project will not have any significant adverse impact on the surrounding water, sewer, and storm water management infrastructure. The new buildings to be constructed for the proposed Job Corps Center will be tied in to the existing City of Atlanta Watershed Management system. The new buildings to be constructed for the proposed Job Corps Center will also be tied in to the existing Fulton County wastewater treatment system.

Georgia Power would provide the electricity for the site. This is not expected to create any significant impact to the regional utility infrastructure.

No significant adverse affects to local medical, emergency, fire, and police services are anticipated. The primary medical provider located closest to the proposed Job Corps parcel is South Fulton Medical Center, approximately 6 miles from the proposed Job Corps Center. Nevertheless, the Job Corps center will have a small medical and dental facility as part of the campus for use by the residents, as necessary for providing a ward for sick students with the flu or small non-emergency incapacities. Security services at the Job Corps will be provided by the center's security staff. Law enforcement services are provided by the Fulton County Police Department, located

approximately 2.3 miles from the proposed project site. Local fire stations are provided by the Fulton County Fire Department. The fire department has two stations which operate 24 hours a day near the proposed site. Both stations are less than 10 minutes away and will provide all of the necessary fire protection for the center in the near future.

The proposed project will not have a significant adverse sociological effect on the surrounding community. Similarly, the proposed project will not have a significant adverse effect on demographic and socioeconomic characteristics of the area.

The alternatives considered in the preparation of this FONSI were as follows: (1) No Action; and (2) Continue Project as Proposed. The No Action alternative was not selected. The U.S. Department of Labor's goal of improving the Job Corps Program by improving the learning environment at Job Corps Centers would not be met under this alternative. Due to the suitability of the proposed site for establishment of a new Job Corps Center, and the absence of any identified significant adverse environmental impacts from locating a Job Corps Center on the subject property, the "Continue Project as Proposed" alternative was selected.

Based on the information gathered during the preparation of the EA, no environmental liabilities, current or historical, were found to exist on the proposed Job Corps Center site. The construction of the Job Corps Center at the Roosevelt Highway between Washington Road and Interstate 285 in College Park, Georgia will not create any significant adverse impacts on the environment.

Dated: June 6, 2007.

**Esther R. Johnson,**

*National Director of Job Corps.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

### Center for Faith-Based & Community Initiatives; Call for Papers; White House National Summit on Prisoner Reentry

November 27-28, 2007.

**Summary:** The White House and the U.S. Departments of Labor and Justice issue this call for papers to evaluate whether an offender's sustained participation in and completion of any pre-release program in a correctional system or post-release service or program through faith-based and community organizations impacts ex-

offender recidivism. We are seeking paper concepts for recently completed papers or papers that will be completed prior to the conference. We encourage contributions by researchers from academia, state or local agencies, business organizations, labor associations, research consulting firms and other relevant organizations.

**Context:** Each year more than 650,000 inmates are released from Federal and State prisons and return to their communities and families. Released prisoners face many challenges that contribute to a return to criminal activity, re-arrest, and re-incarceration. Joblessness among ex-prisoners has been linked to recidivism rates.<sup>1</sup>

Unemployment among ex-prisoners has been estimated at between 25 and 40 percent.<sup>2</sup> Prisoners also demonstrate low levels of educational attainment. Forty percent of adult state prisoners are functionally illiterate and over half of state parole entrants are not high school graduates.<sup>3</sup>

The White House National Summit on Prisoner Reentry will focus on issues related to impacts, trends, and challenges of prisoner reentry into society, both pre-release and post-release. In addition, this conference will focus on the positive outcomes that faith-based and community organizations and the correctional system can have on lowering recidivism and raising employment for ex-offenders.

Possible topics may include, but are not limited to:

1. The impact on recidivism,<sup>4</sup> if any, of an offender's<sup>5</sup> sustained participation in and completion of:

- Any mentoring program involving a volunteer meeting (in person or by video-conference) at least monthly with an offender for at least the last 90 days before and/or the first 90 days after release;

<sup>1</sup> According to the DOJ, almost three out of five returning inmates will be rearrested and charged with new crimes within three years of their release from prison.

<sup>2</sup> Joan Petersilia, *When Prisoners Come Home: Parole and Prisoner Reentry* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2003), 119 (citing Peter Finn, *Successful Job Placement for Ex-Offenders: The Center for Employment Opportunities*. Washington, DC: National Institute of Justice).

<sup>3</sup> Joan Petersilia, *When Prisoners Come Home: Parole and Prisoner Reentry* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2003), 32 (citing Gwen Rubinstein, *Getting to Work: How TANF Can Support Ex-Offender Parents in the Transition to Self-Sufficiency* (Washington, DC: Legal Action Center, 2001).

<sup>4</sup> Defined most liberally as re-arrest (not necessarily re-incarceration) for parole violation or for new offense within 36 months after release.

<sup>5</sup> Defined as adult or juvenile, male or female incarcerated offender.

- Any post-release program administered by a faith-based or community organization that emphasizes job training, job placement, mentoring, or other transitional services;
- Regular, sustained pre-release participation by inmates in vocational training or compensated, skilled prison industry;

- Any pre-release program in which inmates have parenting-enrichment training and regular (at least semi-monthly) contact (in person or by video-conference) with one or more of their minor children;

- Any pre-release program in which female inmates have daily contact with their infant children on-site;

- Regular (at least weekly), sustained pre-release participation by inmates in faith-based or philosophical meetings;

- Any post-release program that includes a housing component;

- Any pre-release program (residential or non-residential) in a correctional system in which inmates pursue a curriculum on reintegration into their community from a faith-, character-, or philosophically-based perspective;

- Any post-release program of re-entry services (e.g., job placement, substance abuse therapy, transitional housing) in which ex-offenders have a genuine choice of service providers, faith-based and secular;

- Any pre-release program in which most or all inmates apply and are selected to be housed in the same correctional facility wherein religious or cognitive behavior curriculum and intensive religious programming are provided or required (including "faith-based prisons");

2. A survey of the domestic and/or international academic literature on any of the offender reentry programs listed as a topic under part 1.

3. Other research on the impact of Faith-Based and Community Organizations on the ability of ex-offenders to successfully reintegrate into society following incarceration (with a particular emphasis on employment and recidivism).

### Sponsoring Agencies

The mission of the Department of Labor (DOL) Center for Faith-Based & Community Initiatives (CFBCI) is to empower faith-based and community organizations as they help their neighbors prepare for, enter, and thrive in the workforce. The CFBCI works to cultivate public-nonprofit-private partnerships nationwide to make services more effective such as new grant opportunities and pilot projects, cost-free training for faith-based and