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Press Release

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Auditor Doug Hoffer Releases New Report Evaluating Department of Labor Job Training Programs

MONTPELIER, VT – Vermont State Auditor Doug Hoffer released a new investigative report analyzing the performance of the Vermont Department of Labor’s primary job training programs. These Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Title I and Title III programs receive about \$7 million from the federal government each year and are administered by the Vermont Department of Labor.

“Job training programs are extremely important because they help people realize their potential,” said Auditor Hoffer. “When done effectively, individual Vermonters can make more money, get off public assistance, and enjoy a more fulfilling worklife. As the largest source of training funding in the state, we felt it was important to analyze how the WIOA programs are serving Vermonters with an eye to maximizing the impact of these federal dollars.”

The report evaluates the percentage of the total eligible population being served, the employment and earnings outcomes for program participants, the impact of training services compared to general job-seeking assistance, and the performance of Vermont relative to other states. In each area, the report recognizes that performance could be negatively affected by the Department of Labor’s stated priority of serving Vermonters with high economic need and barriers to employment.

The report finds the following:

- Across all categories of eligible Vermonters, WIOA funds serve a relatively small percentage of potential participants.
- While some groups experienced increased employment and earnings, across all programs a significant portion of participants had lower earnings, lost employment, or remained unemployed when compared to preprogram status.
- Participants who received training services had higher quarterly earnings than those who only received general job-seeking assistance.
- Compared to other states, Vermont’s performance falls in the bottom half for most measures.

Hoffer added: “The Department of Labor’s commitment to serving people with high economic need and barriers to employment is commendable. Several of the findings in this report speak to

the positive impact that these types of programs can have, and we know that the Department's dedicated staff help many Vermonters advance their careers each year. However, our analyses also revealed limitations in the programs' reach and impact. We hope the information in this report helps the Department and the Legislature improve these job training services so more Vermonters can earn livable wages and fulfill their potential."

To view the report, please [click here](#).