

FEDERAL NEWS WEEKLY SUMMARY



BUSINESS & LABOR

STATES POISED TO RECEIVE \$3.5 BILLION FOR JOB AND TRAINING PROGRAMS

■(WASHINGTON) States will soon be receiving nearly \$3.5 billion in grants from the U.S. Department of Labor for Americans who have lost their jobs and need training or help finding new jobs.

The grants, which will be available beginning July 1, 1996, are the foundation for the nation's network of job training programs and public employment offices to serve job seekers, dislocated workers, disadvantaged adults and at-risk youth.

The funds, distributed to states under the Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA) and the Wagner-Peyser Act, are allocated according to formulas which take into account such factors as civilian labor force, unemployment and proportion of economically disadvantaged citizens in each state.

—US DEPT. OF LABOR
05/20/96

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO PROMOTE JOBS AND PRIVATE SECTOR INVESTMENT IN LOCAL COMMUNITITES

■(WASHINGTON) In a continuing effort to strengthen the economy and create greater

opportunity, President Clinton Tuesday signed two executive orders that will make the federal government a more effective partner in promoting jobs and private-sector investment in our central cities and distressed rural heartlands.

An executive order on federal contracting launches the President's Empowerment Contracting program, providing a supplement, not a replacement, to existing federal procurement programs. The program will offer special incentives for government contracting awards to businesses in distressed communities. Under the empowerment contracting order, large businesses that hire a significant number of residents and that will generate significant economic activity in low-income areas will be eligible to participate in the program. Small businesses may participate if they meet either test.

A second executive order encourages federal agencies to locate offices in the historic districts of our central cities. The order also attempts to ease the regulatory burdens that impede the government's ability to establish or maintain a presence in these districts.

Vice President Gore initiated the orders in his role as Chair of the Community Empowerment Board, the Cabinet-level group which coordinates the Administration's community empowerment initiatives. "We recognize that the private sector must be the

driver of economic opportunity. However, as these orders make clear, the government can be an effective partner by helping distressed communities attract private-sector investment and providing these communities with the tools to solve their own problems," said Gore.

—THE WHITE HOUSE
05/23/96

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

PRACTITIONER ENROLLMENT IN MEDICARE PROGRAM INCREASES FOR 1996

■(WASHINGTON) More than three-quarters of the physicians and other practitioners who serve Medicare beneficiaries have enrolled in the Medicare participating physician program for 1996, HHS Secretary Donna E. Shalala announced recently. Participation ranges from a high of 92.2 percent in North Dakota to a low of 60.1 percent in Idaho.

The overall rate of participation is 77.5 percent this year, up from 72.3 percent in 1995. The number of enrollees in the program has increased to 627,000 in 1996 from 620,000 last year. Participation rose in 45 states, as well as the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.

Participation has risen every year since the program started in 1984. The overall rate includes medical doctors (MDs), limited license practitioners and non-physician practitioners:

✓ For MDs and doctors of osteopathy, the participation rate increased to 80 percent in 1996, up from 74.6 percent in 1995.

✓ For limited license practitioners, who are optometrists, podiatrists, chiropractors or oral surgeons, the participation rate rose to 50.3 percent, compared with 44.6 percent in 1995.

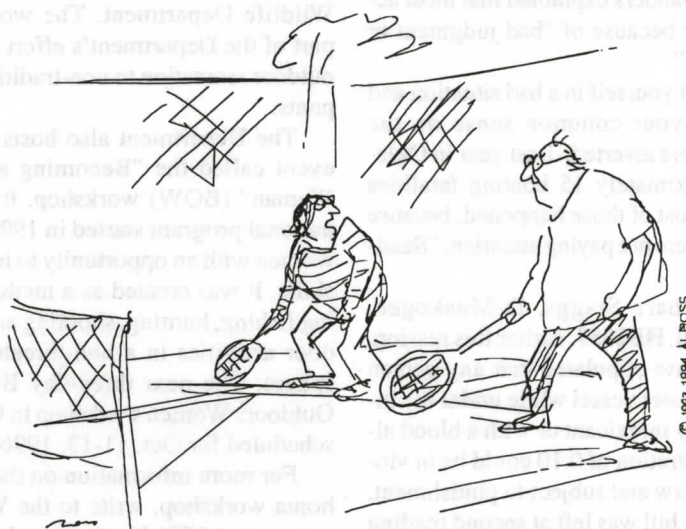
✓ For non-physician practitioners, the participation rate increased to 93.1 percent in 1996 from 91.6 percent in 1995.

Physicians are advised that participating in the program creates the following advantages:

✓ Their Medicare fee schedule is 5 percent higher than that of non-participating physicians.

✓ They are provided with toll-free lines if they submit claims electronically.

Continued on next page



"Get mad, make believe they're tampering with your Social Security benefits!"