SPECIAL REPORT:
FY 2015 Department of Labor Budget and California Implications
March 2014

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

The FY 2015 request for the DOL is $11.8 billion in discretionary budget authority. According to the Budget documents, DOL's FY 2015 budget targets investments to improve job training and employment programs; strengthens enforcement of laws that protect workers' wages and working conditions; provides a strong safety net for workers who lose their jobs or are hurt on the job; and promotes a secure retirement for workers at the end of their careers. The Budget includes more than $3 billion in formula grants to states and localities to provide training and employment services to more than 20 million Americans at over 2,500 American Job Centers across the country, according to Budget documents.

Employment and Training Administration (ETA)

The Budget funds the ETA at $3.255 billion, an increase from the FY 2014 amount of $3.148 billion. The Workforce Investment Act, the expired legislation that is the primary authorization for this account, is intended to provide workers with the information, advice, job search assistance, and training they need to get and keep jobs; and to provide employers with skilled workers. Funds appropriated for this account generally are available on a July to June program year basis, and include substantial advance appropriation amounts. The Budget proposes legislation to establish a New Career Pathways (NCP) program, to make training, reemployment services, income support and other services available to a broader number of displaced workers, according to Budget documents.

Employee Benefits Security Administration (EBSA)

The Budget funds the EBSA at $188.447 million, an increase from the FY 2014 amount of $178.5 million.

Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA)

The Budget funds OSHA at $565.01 million, an increase from the FY 2014 amount of $552.247 million.

Workforce Innovation Fund (WIF)

This program is jointly funded by the Departments of Labor and Education, in order to spur job training innovation among States and localities. The Budget funds the WIF at $60 million to support competitive grants to test innovative strategies and replicate evidence-based practices in the workforce.
system. The Fund will support cross-program collaboration and systemic reforms to improve education and employment outcomes for participants.

Transition Assistance Program (TAP) & Jobs for Veterans State Grants

The Budget funds TAP at $14 million, roughly equivalent to FY 2014 levels. TAP provides employment workshops for departing service members in the continental U.S. and at major overseas installations. The budget request of $175,000,000 for State Grants maintains the FY 2014 funding level, which provided for an estimated 1,370 Disabled Veterans’ Outreach Program (DVOP) specialists, approximately 134 over the FY 2013 level.