

(II) THREATENED BY THE PRESSURES OF INCREASED FOREIGN OR DOMESTIC COMPETITION.

(d) (1) The Secretary shall utilize local advisory groups such as private industry councils, and joint apprenticeship committees, to identify employers in need of assistance.

(2) Business assistance services provided by the Program shall:

(i) Determine whether the employer's specific needs are best met by training, by other types of assistance, or by a combination of services;

(ii) Identify the availability of existing training programs which could be adapted to meet the employer's needs;

(iii) Identify the resources the business can provide to support the training, including facilities, materials, and equipment;

(iv) Identify or develop appropriate curricula; and

(v) Determine the most cost effective approach to meeting the employer's training needs.

(e) [(1)] The Secretary may award grants for job specific training assistance to a qualified business, union sponsored training program, community college, private career school, trade association, or State-accredited training agency.

[(2) Based on a determination made under subsection (d)(2) of this section, job specific training assistance may be provided through:

(i) A voucher system to send individual employees to training offered by institutions specified in paragraph (1) of this subsection;

(ii) Vouchers or grants for training to meet the common needs of a group of employers in a local area; and

(iii) Vouchers or grants for training to meet the specific needs of individual employers.]

(f) All training must be approved by the employer of those being trained.

(g) [(1)] Under the Partnership for Workforce Quality Program, job specific training may not exceed one year.

[(2) Vouchers provided under subsection (e)(2) of this section may not exceed \$1,000 per employee.]

(h) (1) The Partnership for Workforce Quality Program may not contribute more than 50 percent of direct training costs for job specific training assistance.

(2) The Partnership for Workforce Quality Program may provide business assistance services under subsection (d)(2) of this section at no cost to the employer.