
OFFICE OF GOVERNOR RONNIE MUSGROVE
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: GOVERNOR
FROM: RILEY
SUBJECT: JOBS FOR MISSISSIPPI'S GRADUATES
DATE: 6/30/00
CC: COLE
BOYD

The mission of Jobs for Mississippi Graduates (JMG) is to assist at-risk and disadvantaged youth in graduating from high school and in finding and keeping quality jobs through a state supported school-to-work transition system. JMG is modeled after the national Jobs for America's Graduates which is now the nation's largest, most consistently applied model of school-to-work transition for at-risk youth. Approximately 500-550 students are participating in 16 JMG programs at 15 sites. These programs offer in-school and out-of-school services to students including classroom instruction, mentoring, employability skills and placement assistance.

As stated in my June 20 memo to you, JMG has been predominantly funded with federal JTPA funds, with the Legislature appropriating state funds for this year's operations:

| | 1998/1999 | 1999/2000 |
|---------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| State Funds | | \$250,000 |
| Federal JTPA Funds* | \$521,695 | 534,769 |
| Other Federal Funds | | <u>125,000</u> |
| TOTAL | <u>\$521,695</u> | <u>\$909,769</u> |

Federal JTPA funds will no longer fund the program effective today. The Department of Education sought \$2 million in FY 2001 funds in order to institutionalize the program throughout the state, but the Legislature appropriated only \$243,000, leaving a deficit to the existing funding level. According to Ken Smith, President of Jobs for America's Graduates, approximately \$600,000 is needed to maintain operations at the state office and the 16 JMG programs at 15 sites. Jean Denson of DECD informed me today that there is no question that WIA funds may be used for JMG, but that the local programs will have to serve more economically disadvantaged students and performance measures will have to be enhanced.

Dr. Cole has asked me to coordinate a meeting for Wednesday, July 5, at 10:00 of MDE, DECD, DHS and JMG representatives. I will advise you of the discussion at the meeting.

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INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM**

TO: COLE
FROM: RILEY
SUBJECT: JOBS FOR MISSISSIPPI'S GRADUATES: JULY 5 MEETING
DATE: 6/30/2000
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FILE

Per your direction, I have notified the following individuals of the Wednesday, July 5, meeting at 10:00 to discuss the Jobs for Mississippi Graduates program:

MDE Joy Milam (Dr. Thompson will be out of town.)
DHS Dr. Bettye Fletcher (or her designee)
DECD Jean Denson
JMG Jean Hendrix
