
U.S. Department of Labor Hispanic Worker Initiative HMC Associates, Inc. & U.S.-Mexico Chamber of Commerce



Contract Amount: \$600,000

Program Description:

The U.S. Department of Labor is awarding a contract of \$600,000 for a study of the level of English proficiency various employers require of their Hispanic workforce.

The study will be conducted by HMA Associates, Inc., in partnership with the U.S. Mexico Chamber of Commerce. The study will engage employer members of the U.S.-Mexico Chamber of Commerce to determine:

- the level of English proficiency expected by local employers;
- how the level of English proficiency required varies with the type of work performed;
- methods used by employers to assess applicant proficiency; and
- services or programs employers use to help workers improve workplace communication.

A series of six focus groups and executive forums will be conducted in regions of the United States with high percentages of Hispanic workers. Targeted employers include those that provide job opportunities in high-growth sectors of the economy such as hospitality, health care, and construction.

The study will help the Department of Labor develop strategies to help Hispanic Americans develop the necessary language and occupational skills for their success in the workplace.

