The effects of additional information on training subsidies for employees: Results from a randomized field experiment

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The study analyzes a German program that subsidizes occupational and further training for employed workers. In an experimental setup, we mailed 15,000 informational brochures to potentially eligible workers. Using combined survey and register data, we analyze the impact of additional information on workers' awareness of the program, training take-up, and several job characteristics. We find that additional information increased workers' awareness of the program substantially by 50 to 90 percent. Unsubsidized training take-up was positively affected for employees under 45 years in small and medium-sized firms. For other groups of workers, there was no measurable change in job characteristics and in subsidized or unsubsidized training. This can partially be explained by workers' low interest in further training and fear of stigma.