

RHODE ISLAND DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND TRAINING

PY 2006 WORKFORCE INFORMATION CORE PRODUCTS AND SERVICES GRANT PERFORMANCE REPORT

July 1, 2006 - June 30, 2007

A. GRANT DELIVERABLES:

1. Continue to Populate the ALMIS Database with state data

<p>Planned Activities: Populate the core tables of the most current version of the Workforce Information Database with the latest state data in accordance with guidelines issued by the Analyst Resource Center. Update licensing data files as required and submit to the National Crosswalk Service Center.</p>	<p>Status/Accomplishments: We have upgraded to the most current version (2.3) of the Workforce Information Database. All tables designated as core tables have been populated and data tables are updated regularly as soon as new data is available. Licensing files were updated with 2006 data and sent to the National Crosswalk Service Center (NCSC) in July 2007 for inclusion in the Career InfoNet web site. We also sent a staff member to ALMIS Database training in July 2006.</p>
---	---

2. Produce and disseminate industry and occupational employment projections

<p>Planned Activities: A. Produce statewide long-term industry and occupational projections for the 2004 to 2014 period. Populate the Workforce Information Database with projections. Submit data for public dissemination following procedures developed by the Projections Workgroup and the Projections Managing Partnership.</p>	<p>Status/Accomplishments: We finalized the 2004-2014 industry projections in July 2006 and reviewed them in August 2006. Occupational projections were completed in September 2006. We populated the Workforce Information Database tables and submitted the results to Projections Management Partnership (PMP) upon completion. We loaded the projections data on our LMI web site and our RI RED application. <i>(Note: There was a delay in finishing this deliverable because national work on the Micromatrix system was not completed by the PMP as scheduled.) As noted in our grant application, RI does not produce sub-state long-term projections because the small size of our state makes sub-state breakouts unnecessary.</i></p>
<p>Planned Activities: B. Produce and disseminate short-term industry and occupational projections. Populate the ALMIS database with projections for the 2006 to 2008 period. Submit data as required by the Projections Managing Partnership.</p>	<p>Status/Accomplishments: The statewide 2006-2008 short-term projections were completed in June 2007 and the results were submitted to the Projections Management Partnership (PMP).</p>
<p>Planned Activities: C. Work with the Bureau of the Census to provide data for RI's participation in the Local Employment Dynamics (LED) program. Review Quarterly Workforce Indicator (QWI) results for final state approval.</p>	<p>Status/Accomplishments: All required data files were sent to the Census Bureau in the fall of 2006. State analysts reviewed the QWIs in May 2007 and agreed to accept results in June 2007. The Census Bureau began publishing Rhode Island Quarterly Workforce Indicators on its web site in July 2007. Rhode Island will be included in the September 2007 "On The Map" release by the Bureau of the Census.</p>

RHODE ISLAND DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND TRAINING

PY 2006 WORKFORCE INFORMATION CORE PRODUCTS AND SERVICES GRANT PERFORMANCE REPORT

July 1, 2006 - June 30, 2007

3. Publish an Economic Analysis Report for the Governor and the State Workforce Investment Board

<p>Planned Activities: Publish an annual state economic analysis report to inform workforce development policy and investment determinations by the governor, the State Workforce Investment Board, the Local Workforce Investment Boards, and other partners. Include pertinent data from the state and other sources.</p>	<p>Status/Accomplishments: Staff researched data sources and assembled a variety of information on the RI economy, jobs and demographics for use by the workforce development system partners. Some of this information was provided to users separately throughout the year and included in the annual report as well. The actual publication of the product was held up until August 2007 so that we could include the latest employment data and make it more useful for the Governor's Workforce Board as it begins its fall meeting schedule.</p>
--	---

4. Post products, information, and reports on the Internet

<p>Planned Activities: A. Maintain the LMI web site and post all products, reports and information on the site.</p>	<p>Status/Accomplishments: LMI staff continued to update the LMI web site (www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi) with the latest workforce and economic information. All LMI publications were also made available for downloading from our web site. Links to other resources were updated during the PY. In addition, we upgraded our network server to provide better internet access to our customers and to maintain continuity of service during this program year.</p>
--	--

<p>Planned Activities: B. Maintain and enhance the RI Research and Economic Database application.</p>	<p>Status/Accomplishments: LMI staff worked with the vendor during this PY to enhance the capabilities of this system. (Web site: www.dlt.ri.gov/ried.) The system's Content Manager gives LMI the capability to redesign web pages and to add content via additional web links. We also worked with the vendor to replace jobs on the site previously provided by America's Job Bank (AJB) with jobs provided through America's Job Exchange (AJE).</p>
--	--

<p>Planned Activities: C. Continue to notify customers of new data and publications through our electronic <i>LMI Stat Track</i> service.</p>	<p>Status/Accomplishments: LMI staff continued this notification process throughout PY 2006. We currently have over 1,000 registered users for this service. We have received several positive feedback comments through this service when new products are provided to customers. Customers like the automatic notification process.</p>
--	--

5. Partner and consult on a continuing basis with workforce investment boards.

<p>Planned Activities: A. Provide support to the state Workforce Investment Board (WIB) and Local WIBs to identify and supply needed information to support strategic planning for workforce investment and responding to changing economic conditions.</p>	<p>Status/Accomplishments: LMI Staff work on a continuing basis with staff of the Governor's Workforce Board and our two Local Workforce Investment Boards. LMI staff worked in partnership with several groups and the WIBs to provide data in their efforts. LMI staff produced a customized pamphlet for the Providence/Cranston WIB at the request of their LMI committee and are now preparing a similar pamphlet for our other WIB, the Workforce Partnership of Greater RI, at their request.</p>
--	---

RHODE ISLAND DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND TRAINING

PY 2006 WORKFORCE INFORMATION CORE PRODUCTS AND SERVICES GRANT PERFORMANCE REPORT

July 1, 2006 - June 30, 2007

5. Partner and consult on a continuing basis with workforce investment boards. (continued)

<u>Planned Activities:</u>	<u>Status/Accomplishments:</u>
B. Provide support to state in preparing labor market information for the new two-year State Workforce Investment Plan	LMI staff provided analyses of economic and demographic data to State Workforce Investment Office for the completion of its new two-year plan.
C. Provide presentations to various groups interested in labor market information to promote a better understanding of the RI economy.	Several workshops were conducted aimed at student populations and others for the business community. Several local high schools and the Children's Crusade requested information presentations on the labor market for future jobseekers. Presentations were also made to the RI Manufacturing Extension Services, the RI Business Education Association, the RI Marine Trades Association and graduate students at Rhode Island College.

6. Conduct special studies and analysis.

Conduct special state, local, or sub-state regional studies and economic analyses to provide information support for communities in economic transition, state and sub-state workforce development initiatives, and responses to major layoffs and disasters.

<u>Planned Activities:</u>	<u>Status/Accomplishments:</u>
A. Conduct a Job Vacancy Survey and Employee Benefits Survey	Staff developed and conducted a joint Job Vacancy Survey and Employee Benefits Survey for this program year. The original plan was to do them separately in the spring of 2007. However, in order to reduce costs and minimize employer reporting burden, we decided to try a combined survey since many of the same employers would be in both survey samples. A further complication was the request by the Newport Skills Alliance to develop a survey for their specific area. The Community College of RI provided \$15,000 to finance this special survey. The first survey mailing was delayed until June of 2007 so the MOU could be developed and signed. The second mailing took place in July 2007 with follow-up calls beginning in August 2007. The Job Vacancy Survey results will be published in September 2007 followed by the Employee Benefits Survey results in October 2007.
B. Provide insight and an analysis of RI's industries and our regional and national competitiveness.	LMI staff produced a publication, "Employment Concentrations in the Ocean State," in March 2007. This publication used regional and national location quotient analysis to provide an understanding of RI's industrial strengths and weaknesses in comparison to our neighboring states and the national economy.
C. Participate in teams set up to develop information in support of two WIRED grant applications for the state.	LMI staff served on two work groups that developed information and provided support for two WIRED gant applications (one for Health Care and one for Biotechnology) submitted by the State of Rhode Island in the spring of 2007.

RHODE ISLAND DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND TRAINING

PY 2006 WORKFORCE INFORMATION CORE PRODUCTS AND SERVICES GRANT PERFORMANCE REPORT

July 1, 2006 - June 30, 2007

6. Conduct special studies and analysis. (continued)

Conduct special state, local, or sub-state regional studies and economic analyses to provide information support for communities in economic transition, state and sub-state workforce development initiatives, and responses to major layoffs and disasters.

<p>Planned Activities: D. Participate in a series of Employer Education Seminars developed by our Department to help employers better understand the programs and services available to them.</p>	<p>Status/Accomplishments: LMI staff is part of an Agency work group developing a strategy to inform the employer community about DLT services and how they can meet their needs. Specifically, LMI staff conducted a seminar along with our Employer Service Representatives to familiarize employers with the types of useful information they can get from our LMI unit and how they can access it.</p>
<p>Planned Activities: E. Participate in work groups formed around various targeted industries and grant opportunities.</p>	<p>Status/Accomplishments:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. LMI staff participates in several partnerships with industry representatives to provide information about their industries for planning and grant opportunities. These partnerships include Quality Partners, The Health Partnership Council, the Newport Skills Alliance, the RI Business Educators Association, the Sherlock Center and the RI Marine Trades Association. For the Health Care sector, staff produced a "Health Care & Social Assistance" report in December 2006, which was well received. Staff also produced the "State of the State" report in September 2006, which provided statistical profiles of the State's 39 cities and towns. 2. LMI staff continued to work with the RI Department of Education and Brown University on a project to share data and resources with the goal of gauging the importance RI employers attach to the GED certification. This project included providing advice on questionnaire design, developing an MOU to send out the questionnaire using our employer database and providing expertise in follow-up calls. Brown University provided \$3,363 in funds to cover survey costs. 3. The LMI Director, along with his counterparts in Regions 1 and 2, worked with the Boston ETA Regional Office to develop a regional conference for Workforce and Economic Development Professionals entitled "Workforce Information Driving Regional Economies." The conference was held in Portland, Maine in May 2007 and was attended by more than 125 people. 4. LMI staff worked with the RI Office of Higher Education and the Center for Labor Market Studies at Northeastern University to share wage record data for the purpose of tracking progress of students in the higher education system in RI. 5. LMI Assistant Director was a member of the NASWA LMI Committee during this program year and participated in efforts to improve LMI data and secure future funding for the program.
<p>Planned Activities: F. Continue publishing our monthly Employment Bulletin and the Governor's Labor Force Brief.</p>	<p>Status/Accomplishments: Employment Bulletins mailed monthly to about 1,100 individuals and businesses. The Governor's Labor Force Brief provided monthly to the Governor, his staff, his</p>

RHODE ISLAND DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND TRAINING
PY 2006 WORKFORCE INFORMATION CORE PRODUCTS AND SERVICES GRANT PERFORMANCE REPORT
July 1, 2006 - June 30, 2007

|cabinet members and the RI Economic Policy Council.

RHODE ISLAND DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND TRAINING

PY 2006 WORKFORCE INFORMATION CORE PRODUCTS AND SERVICES GRANT PERFORMANCE REPORT

July 1, 2006 - June 30, 2007

B. Customer satisfaction efforts and feedback

We rely primarily on input we receive from various groups that we participate with during the year for information on their data needs and their reactions to products that we produce. We do occasionally use exit surveys for specific training, such as for our RI RED application. We also receive feedback from our customers on our products, especially those customers on our LMI Stat Track list. We have also benefited from the addition of a full-time Marketing/Communications Director for our department. This person has given LMI data and products more visibility with the media and this has resulted in several articles being published citing our reports and data.

We have received very positive comments on our web site, especially our interactive RI RED application, from many of our users. Our electronic notification, *LMI Stat Track*, that goes out to over 1,000 customers has received good reviews for keeping our customers informed when new products and information are available. Our "Health Care & Social Assistance" publication and the 2006 Job Vacancy Survey also received positive reviews from our customers. Our Job Vacancy data was cited in a new guide to hospitals put out by the Hospital Association of RI. The *Workforce Solutions of Providence/Cranston* (one local WIB) really appreciated the pamphlet we did for their board. This was followed by a request from our other local WIB, *Workforce Partnership of Greater RI*, for the same type of informational pamphlet for use by its board.

C. Recommendations for Improvements or Changes to the Suite of Core Products

No recommendations for changes at this time.