

October 8, 2007

Byron Zuidema
Regional Administrator
U.S. Department of Labor
Employment and Training Administration
230 S. Dearborn Street, 6th Floor
Chicago, Illinois 60604

ATTN: Jean M. Grochowski

Dear Mr. Zuidema,

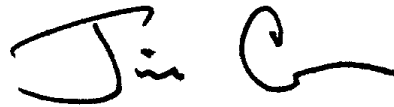
Enclosed is a copy of the Kansas ETA/One-Stop PY 2006 Annual Performance Report for your consideration.

If there are any questions or further information is required, please contact Dorothy D. Stites at the Kansas Department of Labor, Labor Market Information Services at (785) 296-5058.

Sincerely,



Gerald Cook, Chairperson
Workforce Network of Kansas



Jim Garner, Secretary
Kansas Department of Labor

Enclosure

ETA Annual Performance Report
Labor Market Information Services, Kansas Department of Labor
PY 2006

Accomplishments

- A. Continue to Populate the Workforce Information Database (WID) with State and Local Data.

The Labor Market Information Services (LMIS), Kansas Department of Labor (KDOL) has completed populating all required core tables in the Workforce Information Database. The most recent data available for all tables was uploaded. Several new website pages were added to the LMIS website to make these datasets available to our customers. All the required files have been submitted to entities mentioned in the TEGE. After examining several LMIS websites from other states, Kansas LMIS has decided to move forward in enhancing the tools available to our customers in extracting data and creating special reports. We are currently working with our Information Technology division and our Marketing division to develop these tools. Further, enhancement to the WID will continue as we move forward.

The link to our WID database is as follows:

<http://www.dol.ks.gov/LMIS/ALMIS/almis.html>

Estimated Cost:

- B. Produce and Disseminate Industry and Occupation Employment Projections.

Kansas LMIS is currently working on the 2004-2014 long term projections. We have received responses from various economists and labor market experts in the state who have examined our statewide industry projections. We plan to incorporate these responses into our projections and complete the 2014 projections by February 2008. We plan to immediately start work on and complete 2006-2016 projections by end of the current program year. Due to staff turnover and time spent on self training, we experienced delays in completing this project. We anticipate that after completion of the 2004-2014 projections, the next long term projections will have a much quicker turn around time.

The 2006-2008 projections are currently being worked upon. We have created the Industry Control Total (ICT) file and plan to use Micro Matrix to produce occupational projections for 2006-2008. We anticipate this to be completed and disseminated in the next few months. Due to staff turnover, Kansas LMIS has not had anyone with projections experience for the past 1 ½ years. We have concentrated our efforts in training ourselves on previous methodologies and the new LTIP, STIP, and MicroMatrix software packages. The initial learning curve has caused time delays in accomplishing this project in a timely manner. We are

confident that completing this cycle of long term and short term projections will significantly improve our turn around time for the next cycle.

Estimated Cost:

- C. Publish an annual economic analysis report for the governor and the SWIB.

Kansas recently published its first Economic Report for a variety of customers including the governor, the SWIB, and workforce and economic development entities. The report was very well received by a variety of customers including our internal customers at KDOL. The Secretary of Kansas Department of Labor, Jim Garner, used our report in his Labor Day speech and notified members of the Economic Development sub-cabinet group formed by the Governor about this report. A press release was sent out announcing the publication of the economic report to the media. The report concentrated on a variety of economic variables and provided insight into some of the crucial industries in Kansas in terms of employment, wages and growth. The economic report can be viewed at <http://www.dol.ks.gov/LMIS/economicReport/economicReport.html>

Estimated Cost:

- D. Post products, information and reports on the internet.

In order to improve usability for our customers, Kansas LMIS undertook a major upgrade of its website. LMIS staff surveyed several LMI websites from different states in an effort to compile best practices in terms of data dissemination and website development. LMIS dedicated substantial resources for this effort. The LMIS director, senior labor economist, supervisors, key LMIS staff and communication and graphics and IT experts were involved in this project. Incorporating customer feedback as we moved forward, we made significant changes in how data was categorized and presented. We also included a brief overview of the LMIS data and a guide of how to use this data for customers who were not familiar with the data. The new website was launched on May 15th, 2007. We informed customers via email and press release about the new website and encouraged them to complete a customer survey about the website. We continue to receive feedback from our customers and have incorporated changes to our website based on those comments. We will continue to make improvements to the LMIS website as we receive more feedback. Our new website can be accessed at <http://www.dol.ks.gov/LMIS/lmis.html>

Estimated Cost:

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

Kansas LMIS has consulted with the workforce investment board throughout the year. Within the past year the LMIS director and the senior labor economist have

attended all of the Workforce Network of Kansas conference calls and meetings. We have participated by providing information of our LMIS activities and responding to any request they may have for labor market data. We have maintained a list of contact information of our customers including the Workforce Network of Kansas. Regular emails are sent informing the board about new and updated products produced by LMIS throughout the course of the year.

The LMIS staff, including the director, have participated in meeting and presenting LMIS services with different workforce centers across Kansas. Since, workforce center and workforce development efforts are located within the Kansas Department of Commerce; we have worked with this department in addressing their needs for customized workforce statistics and studies. Kansas LMIS worked closely with the Department of Commerce to write relevant labor market sections for the Kansas Strategic State Plan for Title I of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 and the Wagner-Peyser Act.

Our efforts will continue in improving LMIS visibility among workforce investment entities in the state. One of the projects we plan to start is the LMI Certification program, which aims at training workforce center staff in using LMI data to help in workforce development efforts. One of the initiatives which have been implemented recently is to provide information about recent permanent layoffs using Mass Layoff Statistics report to the workforce centers. Information includes the industry of the employer laying off workers and details of similar employers in the area which could potentially hire these workers.

Estimated Cost:

F. Conduct special studies and economic analyses.

One of the most requested publications from Kansas LMIS is the annual Job Vacancy Survey. This study is produced using the ETA grant and serves a variety of customers. The study surveys approximately 5,167 employers in Kansas to survey for job vacancies and related information. Information regarding job vacancies can be used to determine what the current workforce demands are and can be a reliable indicator of the occupational needs in Kansas. This data can be used by workforce development personnel, educators and job seekers. This report is available at <http://www.dol.ks.gov/LMIS/jobvacancy/jvs2006/jvs2006.html>

The Kansas LMIS receives a constant stream of request from a variety of customers requesting data, studies, and analyses. These requests are entered into the database to create records of these requests and to perform analysis of the trends in the data requested. For the calendar year 2006, Kansas LMIS staff responded to 605 special requests. Eighty eight percent (530) of these requests were completed within three days of receiving the request, meeting the internal goal set for 85 percent.

The LMIS staff has also been requested to present data and economic analyses for various state and local government entities, and other non-profit institutions. The labor economists have participated in assessment and projections of labor market and economic conditions of the Kansas economy. One such example is the regular participation of LMIS staff in the Consensus Revenue Estimating Committee for the Kansas Division of Budget in assessing and projecting labor market conditions in Kansas to study its impact on state revenue flow.

Estimated Cost:

Customer Consultations

Kansas LMIS have used several opportunities to receive customer feedback over the past year. LMIS staffs have met with workforce centers managers to discuss LMIS products and avenues in which LMIS can share useful data and studies. One of needs identified was sub-state level data. In response to this request, we created regional information web pages which compiled region specific data. This can be viewed at <http://www.dol.ks.gov/LMIS/regional/regionarea.html>. We are in regular communication with the Kansas Department of Commerce, which leads states workforce development efforts, to identify labor market areas which may need special studies. One example of this is the Healthcare industry study in which Kansas LMIS would provide data from existing sources and conduct special research on occupations in the healthcare industry.

By making LMIS staff, particularly the labor economists, available for providing presentation on LMIS activities, has also provided opportunities to receive customer feedback about existing products and future needs. One of the example is the feedback we received from workforce center managers about the desire to have a LMIS certification program. Working on this initiative we have conducted a preliminary research on such activities conducted in other states. We have identified resources within LMIS to begin work on this project and hope to work on this project during the last two months of 2007 and beginning of 2008.

Another medium of consultation used by Kansas LMIS is a website survey. This survey was added when the new LMIS website was launched in May 2007. Responding to the survey, we have made several changes to the LMIS website, including the addition of "Current Condition" box which allows customers to view current labor market conditions on the LMIS home page with links to more detailed information. We plan to continue this process of incorporating customer feedback into ways we disseminate data. The survey can be viewed at <http://www.dol.ks.gov/LMIS/survey/survey.asp>.

Recommendation for Improvements or Changes to the Deliverables

None.