

Illinois Department of Employment Security, Economic Information and Analysis Division

PY06 Workforce Information Grant Annual Performance Report

July 1, 2006- June 30, 2007

A. Continue to Populate the Workforce Information Database with State and Local Data.

Accomplishments

Maintained the current WID and updated all core tables as required and according to guidelines as data became available. In addition, staff:

- ▶ Participated in the VLMI user group meetings;
- ▶ Provided data extracts and data verification services according to user or system specifications;
- ▶ Delivered licensed occupations files to the National Crosswalk Service Center;
- ▶ Transitioned the Illinois Workforce Info Center (WIC) to VLMI version 7.1.;
- ▶ Improved employer search options by adding increased flexibility to ZIP code search; and,
- ▶ Implemented web services to allow sharing of data with other state agency partners.

[Expenditures: \$64,371.00.]

Customer Consultations

The major conduit for customer feedback on the search engine that accesses the WID, the Illinois Workforce Info Center, continues to be focus groups of business associations and economic development groups in cooperation with Illinois Workforce Investment Board staff.

Recommendations for Improvements or Changes to the Deliverables

The majority of customer suggestions for enhancements to the Illinois WIC focus on increasing the ease of customer access to data. For the upcoming program year, enhancements will include:

- Transition to VLMI 8.0;
- Add data elements including location quotient calculation and shift-share analysis;
- Expand workforce information available through “employer” side of Illinois workNet;
- Improve employer search functionality; and,
- Incorporate Business Employment Dynamics data and Local Employment Dynamics link.

B. Produce and Disseminate Industry and Occupational Employment Projections.

Accomplishments

- ▶ Developed required databases and completed necessary adjustments in order to produce 24 county-based Local Workforce Area (LWA) level data sets for the 2006-2008 short-term industry employment projections.
- ▶ For the first time and as a result of previous customer consultation, constructed sub-county industry employment projections for the three Local Workforce Areas that comprise Cook County.
- ▶ Reviewed and finalized Statewide and LWA industry projections.
- ▶ Estimated preliminary Statewide and LWA occupational projections. Conducted review of and finalized occupational projections.
- ▶ Utilizing updated projections data, revised the content of “Winning Job Opportunities: A Guide for the Formerly Incarcerated in Illinois” (WJO) based upon customer feedback from PY 05. The WJO received an Honorable Mention Award in the NASWA LMI Publications annual competition.

[Expenditures: \$257,210.00.]

Customer Consultations

Customer contact via email or phone call for assistance with projections data continues to be the chief source of suggestions for improvements to both content and delivery. Each round of projections, Local Labor Market Economists expand the list of regional experts from whom input is gathered during the review process.

Recommendations for Improvements or Changes to the Deliverables

Continue efforts to streamline the production process for employment projections and shorten time from construction to delivery via the Web. In addition, based upon requests from several customers, re-implement the construction of short-term industry and occupational employment projections for Economic Development Regions (EDRs).

C. Publish an Annual Economic Analysis Report for the Governor and the state WIB.

The Illinois 2006 Annual Economic Analysis Report (at <http://lmi.ides.state.il.us/iaear.htm>) features an analysis of workforce conditions for the state of Illinois and for each of the ten Economic Development Regions (EDRs). Data Program Managers supplied data at the sub-state and state levels. Local Labor Market Economists wrote text descriptive of their regional economies. Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) data were incorporated because the employment totals were actual counts of those working for employers covered by the Unemployment Insurance (UI) Act and comparable average wages could be calculated at the industry level. The Current Employment Statistics (CES) and Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS) data were presented in charts within the report. Local Employment Dynamics (LED) data analysis featured stable employment proportions to again avoid confusion with the QCEW employment data. Occupational projections and occupational wage data were combined in one table within the sub-state sections in order to facilitate analysis. A standard format was developed for the tables and charts that were used in the report. Surplus data tables and charts for the report were compiled and placed in Excel files and made available online at the LMI Source page for the annual report.

[Expenditures: \$144,038.00.]

Customer Consultations

To date, there has been only limited opportunity to gather customer feedback on the Annual Economic Analysis Report.

Recommendations for Improvements or Changes to the Deliverables

Using experiences gained in preparing the 2006 Annual Economic Analysis Report, call upon internal staff and customers (data program managers and local labor market economists) and external customers (economic and workforce development partners) to identify statewide and regional topics of current interest to include in simple analyses of the national and global economies and their impact on the state labor market economy.

D. Post Products, Information, and Reports on the Internet.

During PY06, staff continued extensive promotional activities to promote One Source (at www.ILWorkInfo.com) as the premier access point for comprehensive, reliable workforce information in Illinois. The portal page itself was redesigned to streamline customer access. As a result, over 445,000 customers visited Illinois' One Source Workforce and Career Information Web sites during the program year. Enhancements applied this year to the Web sites available through the One Source portal page include:

Accomplishments

- ▶ **I*COMPASS** is an e-learning application designed to provide online training to a wide range of customers, including local workforce development partners, employers, schools, unemployed individuals, job seekers, students, and parents. Launched in September 2006, I*COMPASS allows users to simultaneously access e-training and Illinois' web-based data sites. Number of visitor sessions = 3,100.
- ▶ Completed and delivered the updated version of the **Career Information System (CIS)** via the Internet on schedule. CIS integrates updated employment projections data, occupational wages, current employment, bibliography, training programs, schools, scholarships, and other related information files. This year, incorporated enhancements include: links to Spanish-language career resources; and, expanded administrative tools. Number of visitor sessions = 108,250.
- ▶ The **Career Click** site provides information on Illinois occupations organized into the sixteen national Career Clusters. Information is included on duties, salaries, state and substate employment levels, and employment forecasts for Illinois and all EDRs. The site was revamped this year based upon customer suggestions to improve accessibility and ease of use. Number of visitor sessions = 89,925.
- ▶ Updated **Countdown** to provide improved access via the 16 U.S. Dept. of Education career clusters and updated all occupational files including descriptions, wages, and employment projections data. Number of visitor sessions = 37,100.
- ▶ Expanded and enhanced the **Workforce Info Center** to accommodate additions to the WID. Reconfigured several main pages to better communicate critical data elements. Number of visitor sessions = 49,800.
- ▶ Redesigned several data pages at **LMI Source** to improve customer access and ease access to data sets and print publications. Number of visitor sessions = 248,850.

Publications distributed during this program year (including *Guides to Career Choices*, *Occupational Outlook in Brief*, *Perspectiva de trabajo en breve*, and *Kids and Careers: How Families Can Help Youth Succeed*) are described in the attached "Illinois Workforce Information Grant Publication List."

[Expenditures: \$202,768.00.]

Customer Consultations

Staff conducted several focus groups and directed interviews with workforce partner agency staff subsequent to their hands-on labor market and career information Web site training.

Recommendations for Improvements or Changes to the Deliverables

Continue to enhance, update, refine and promote the One Source (www.ILWorkInfo.com) Web sites (I*Compass, Workforce Info Center [WIC], LMI Source, Career Information System [CIS], Countdown, and Career Click) and expand our role in the development and delivery of Illinois workNet. Deliver online products and publications that enable customers to make informed career and occupational decisions through providing analysis of employment trends, educational, training and skill requirements, short- and long-term employment projections, wages, career advancement opportunities, and labor market conditions with a demand-driven focus on major employing industries in the state.

E. Partner and Consult on a Continuing Basis with Workforce Investment Boards and Key Talent Development Partners and Stakeholders.

Accomplishments

- ▶ Continued the partnership with the Illinois Workforce Investment Board (IWIB) and Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (IDCEO) to further incorporate the Career Information System into Illinois workNet, the Virtual One-Stop System, including participation on the IWIB workNet Steering Committee.
- ▶ Continued to provide monthly Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS), Current Employment Statistics (CES), Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) summary reports and Mass Layoff Statistics (MLS) data, in requested formats, by Economic Development Regions (EDRs) and Local Workforce Areas (LWAs) to the Illinois Governor's Office, to the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO), to the Illinois Workforce Investment Board (IWIB), and to Local Workforce Investment Boards (LWIBs).
- ▶ Updated and refined regional industry and occupational supply-demand balance analysis for target industries (Health Care, Manufacturing, and Transportation/Distribution/Logistics) and critical occupations and delivered to DCEO and LWIB staff coordinating the Critical Skill Shortages Initiative (CSSI) within each EDR.
- ▶ Local Labor Market Economists provided technical assistance to regional economic and workforce development constituencies including:
 - Served on an advisory committee that assisted in the LWIB 3 and Rockford Economic Development Council's efforts to survey the Rockford area population, determine workforce needs and WIA outcome expectations, and perform program oversight duties by providing: employment projections by occupation and by CIP - Classification of Instructional Programs; wage data; customized workforce information compiling BEA and Census data; and, local employment and unemployment statistics.
 - Assisted three Local Workforce Boards in Illinois specialized workforce and career information, which provided employment forecasts for civilian occupations matched with military occupations, for their efforts with the local Base Realignment and Closure committees.
 - Prepared customized workforce information for Growth Dimensions, the Belvidere/Boone County Economic Development Corporation.
 - Participated on the Rockford Area Manufacturing Advisory Committee, which is made up of local manufactures and educators, to help identify workforce needs and solutions.
 - Compiled site selection data packages for numerous local and regional efforts throughout the state, e.g. Islands of Marissa Housing Project, Sysco Foods, Prairie State Energy Campus, and Pella Windows.
- ▶ Outreach staff provided One Source hands-on technical training to Dynamic Educational Systems, Inc. (DESI) personnel housed at the Chicago Career Center. DESI's Workforce Services Division specializes in operating programs under the umbrella of the Workforce Investment Act (WIA), Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF), and Food Stamp Employment and Training (FSET). In affiliation with the Chicago Workforce Board, DESI works with businesses and individuals to develop workforce solutions by providing: youth services, job training and placement, one stop center program management, and employment services. Staff consisted of placement coordinators, retention specialists, career managers, educational facilitators, resource room facilitators and career manager supervisors.
- ▶ Through an ongoing relationship with the Burbank One-Stop Center, staff delivered live website demo presentations and resource materials to the participants in a series of informational workshops with private and government sector employers, community-based organizations, service and training providers (of temporary housing, food, employment, training and other emergency needs to Veterans and the general public) who service clients ineligible for Unemployment Insurance benefits. Attendees included principals from: Spanish Coalition for Jobs, Cathedral Shelter of Chicago,

Wellcare Corporation, Lawndale Christian Health Center, Greater West Town, Catholic Charities, Harmony Health Plan, Hines VA Hospital, YMCA Network, and Pendergrass Consultants Inc.

- ▶ Provided advanced technical labor market and career resource training to National ABLE staff at several One-Stop Centers throughout the State. National ABLE Network is a non-profit agency working to serve individuals, families and communities by bringing together qualified job seekers and employers. In Illinois, ABLE serves more than 40,000 clients who are seeking employment counseling, training and immediate job placement – workers include those from entry-level to mid-level professionals, teens and people over age 55 as well as persons with disabilities.
- ▶ Staff delivered workforce and career resource information at the Tutor/Mentor Connection (T/MC) Leadership Conference. T/MC is dedicated to improving the availability and quality of comprehensive, long-term, volunteer-based tutor/mentor programs in high-poverty areas of the Chicago region and other large US cities through an ongoing, dynamic exchange of ideas. Companies and business affiliates present at the conference included: National Turning Association, Life Directions, Juvenile Intervention Support Center, YMCA Community School, YWCA of Lake County, IL Dept. of Human Services, Mercy Home for Boys and Girls, and Prairie State College.
- ▶ Provided labor market training, data and resource materials to the program organizers and participants of C-BASE (Community Business Awareness and Self-Employment) led by the Illinois Small Business Development Center, the Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities, the Mayor's Office of Workforce Development and the University of Illinois at Chicago. Staff conducted two workshops for the program and throughout the 13-week period served as the labor market subject expert.
- ▶ Staff conducted or participated in over 225 events including the following presentations, exhibits, and capacity-building training sessions for the workforce development and business communities:
 - Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce B2B Exchange Event;
 - Hispanic Business Expo;
 - Ford Motor Company Opportunity Job Fair for Transitioning Employees;
 - Chicago Business Opportunity Fair hosted by the Chicago Minority Business Development Council;
 - Chicagoland Employer Information Workshop; and,
 - Business Opportunities for Self Success Project, a partnership of agencies in LWIB 4 who assist individuals seeking re-employment opportunities.

[Expenditures: \$208,768.00.]

Customer Consultations

Local economic development organizations and business leaders are finding that "lack of career awareness" is the most often cited cause for critical skill shortages in each of the Economic Development Regions. In the upcoming Program Year 2007, consultations will focus on Web sites, reaction to the new *Kids and Careers* brochure, and redesigned *Occupational Outlook in Brief* (OOIB). In addition to the on-line feedback mechanisms that are available to customers, focus groups will be conducted to gather and analyze feedback from customers of occupational and career information products.

Recommendations for Improvements or Changes to the Deliverables

Continue to work with the Economic Development Regions (EDRs) and Local Workforce Board staff and Illinois education boards and their local institutions to assess and enhance core products and services. Additionally, IDES will work with DCEO and other workNet partners to expand career awareness among youth, parents, jobseekers and career guidance professionals of opportunities in Illinois' critical industry sectors: Manufacturing, Transportation/Distribution/Logistics, and Health Care. In conjunction with the IWIB's sector-based task forces, IDES will provide career information on the transformations in Illinois' critical industry sectors emphasizing the good career opportunities available in an innovative work environment. From this focus on the three critical Illinois industry sectors, IDES staff will also assist

workNet developers in organizing and presenting this information for all of the 16 career clusters on both the job seeker and employer sides.

F. Conduct Special Studies and Economic Analyses.

At the request of the Governor’s Office and US Department of Labor, Veterans Employment and Training Service, IDES completed a special study on the employment experiences of younger, recently discharged veterans entitled "An Examination of the High Unemployment Rate for Young Veterans." Statistics show that veterans in the 20-24 age range have an unemployment rate almost double that of non-veterans. The focus of the project was to uncover those factors that can explain this high unemployment rate. Staff acquired and compiled data sources and produced a quantitative analysis of the employment/education status of Illinois veterans in the 20-24 age range compared to non-veterans in the same age range. A link to the study and an addendum based upon more current data is available in the attached “Illinois Workforce Information Grant Publication List.”

[Expenditures: \$154,326.00.]

Customer Consultations

Recommendations for Improvements or Changes to the Deliverables

Continue to cooperate with DCEO and our other workforce development partners to analyze the labor supply-demand relationships critical to developing the required talents and skills among our workforce in order to support the state’s major economic development industry sector initiatives.