Mississippi
Annual Performance Report
ETA One Stop LMI Grant
PY 2003

Accomplishments

(1) Continue to populate the ALMIS database with state data.

Mississippi has continued to update the ALMIS database with required data sets as established by the ALMIS database consortium. Two staff attended the national ALMIS database consortium meeting during PY 2003.

Met planned outcomes for this item.

(2) Produce and disseminate industry and occupational employment projections

Long-term occupational projections were created and are available on the agency's website. Long-term occupational projections were created for the State of Mississippi, three Metropolitan Statistical Areas, four Workforce Investment areas, and thirteen Community College Districts.

Industry projections were published for the first time during PY 2003. Industry projections were produced for the State of Mississippi and are available on the agency's website.

The occupational and industry projections were presented by staff during PY2003 at several training sessions.

Staff are currently working on the production of short-term occupational projections.

Met planned outcomes except for the short-term projections. During the latter part of PY 2003 the LMI Department was allowed to hire an additional staff person to assist with the projections program. This should allow the production of short-term projections during the current year.

(3) Provide occupational and career information products for public use

During PY 2003 the "Demand Occupations in Mississippi" was published for the first time. The publication breaks down occupational projections by educational requirements and provides wages as an additional source. A variety of tables are provided along with explanations of terms and sources. Provided in hard copy and on the agency website, copies were provided to all local One Stop locations in Mississippi.

Work has started on a "Career Guide" publication to enable individuals to match skills to careers.

The Occupational wage estimates published by Mississippi have been enhanced with entry and experienced amounts using the Estimated Delivery System (EDS). The EDS system has allowed the production of occupational wage estimates and employment for the four Workforce Investment Areas in Mississippi.

Partnered with several workforce development agencies and colleges & universities to sponsor a publication that will be submitted to all high school students from the 10th through 12th grade. The LMI department provided occupational projection and wage data to be published in the magazine. The goal of the magazine is to provide educational and occupational information that will allow students to plan for their future career. The magazine is scheduled to be published in October 2004.

Met planned deliverables for this item.

(4) Provide public electronic access to the ALMIS employer database

The ALMIS employer database for Mississippi is available on the agency's website at http://mdes.ms.gov. In the Analysts and Research section, individuals are able to select "employer data". Their next option is to select the area; either statewide, by county, MSA or WIA area. The next options force individuals to select specific industries of interest with the final product a list of employers for the area and industry selected. Individuals are provided with the location, phone number and description of the business.

Met planned deliverables for this item.

(5) Provide information and support to state and local Workforce Investment Boards and provide other special demand information products and services

A wide variety of requests from many types of customers were received and satisfied during PY 2003. The LMI Department has continued to publish a variety of publications to meet various customer needs, including an Affirmative Action publication, Mississippi Business Population statistics, Historical Data, Quick Reference sheets, LMI Guide, Annual Labor Force Reports and Annual Average publications.

Effective January 2004 the State of Mississippi's workforce investment areas were changed from six to four areas. This effect of this change has been covered in all of the LMI publications that provide information by workforce area. Recently provided demand occupation list sorted by a variety of methods for the new four workforce areas.

Met planned deliverables for this item.

(6) Improve and deploy electronic state workforce information delivery systems

The Mississippi Department of Employment Security recently launched a new website. The LMI section of the site was organized to allow individuals unfamiliar with Labor Market Information a user-friendly site. Contact information regarding questions for LMI data are provided. The overall design of the site is designed to meet workforce needs for employers, job seekers and other interested parties.

Met planned deliverables for this item.

(7) Support state workforce information training activities

During PY 2003 LMI staff attended training sessions for the ALMIS database, the LMI Forum, and several computer skill classes (Access, EXCEL, and Web design).

In addition, LMI staff presented overviews of Labor Market Information programs and products to several groups including Vocational Education counselors, Community College/Adult Education staff, MDES staff and Local One Stop staff. Outreach will be a major goal for the upcoming year.

Did not meet the planned deliverable of visiting each local office during PY 2003, but did provide training to local One Stop managers at the Workforce Symposium.

For PY 2003 the overall expenditures planned for the One Stop LMI grant were $477,723; actual expenditures during PY 2003 were $456,767. Because it was not our intention to spend all of the funds in the program year, this was not considered to be a significant variance.

Customer Satisfaction Assessment

During PY 2003 Mississippi continued to use a web-based approach to customer satisfaction. A survey was provided in the LMI section of the agency website. The questions in the survey were designed to capture information about what users needed but could not find, the various types of groups that use and access LMI data, and their assessment of our site and the data provided. The web based approach was used because of it's cost and because the internet is our primary method of dissemination of data.

For FY 6/30/04 the following results were noted from the customer satisfaction survey:

1. 51% of respondents reported that this was their first visit to our website
2. 74% reported that the information they were searching for was in the range of "easy to find" to "same as other websites"
3.   83% reported they were satisfied or somewhat satisfied with the LMI section of the website
4. The following types of users were noted: economic developers, students, employers, and job seekers.
5. Surfing and web search engines were the two largest ways that the users reported discovering our website.

In addition respondents were able to indicate specific questions or comments. Responses were sent when appropriate to direct users to the proper place or direct them to another source for the requested information or to answer their question. The design of the new site was based on review of the various responses from users that were unfamiliar with LMI data and products.

Recommendations for improvements or changes to the suite of core products

Mississippi has no recommendations.