

# Annual Performance Report, July 2008

## New Mexico Department of Workforce Solutions Economic Research & Analysis Bureau

The following annual performance report describes program achievements for each planned activity identified in the Statement of Work Deliverables to date under the PY 2007 ETA State / Local LMI Grant:

### **A. Accomplishments**

#### *1.) Continue to populate the Workforce Information Database with state and local data*

To sustain the creation of a workforce equipped with the information needed in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, ER&A has continued to update the Workforce Information Database with data required in the PY2007 grant application and also with other data items deemed to be of significant benefit to data users. The 2.3 version of the Workforce Information Database is currently in use and the Bureau plans to move to the Workforce Information Database 2.4 version when it becomes available. This year the Bureau coordinated with GeoSolutions, a private vendor, to facilitate a major upgrade to the state's LMI delivery system called "New Mexico LASER" (Labor Analysis, Statistics and Economic Research). Workforce Information Database data are available to support the Virtual One Stop (VOS) system used by the NMDWS and the New Mexico Workforce Connection (for the State and local WIBs). All core tables have been updated as required for PY 2007. ER&A staff conduct training in both the VOS and LASER systems to familiarize users with the data in the Workforce Information Database.

#### *2.) Produce and disseminate industry and occupational projections*

This year, both long- and short-term industry and occupational projections were produced using the methodology, software tools, and guidelines developed by the Projections Workgroup and the Projections Managing Partnership. The staff member assigned to the projections program attended ETA-sponsored training. A new publication highlighting the 2006-2016 projections has been produced and is being distributed in print format and in PDF format on the website. Long-term projections for the state's four workforce regions were not required by grant contract but were included to support the local WIBs. Statewide short-term occupational employment projections from 2007-2009 were completed and submitted prior to the deadline date. Also, as with long-term projections, the Bureau is in the process of expanding and improving short-term projections to include MSAs and regional projections. As a result, short-term 2007-2009 projections by MSA and WIA were completed and published.

*3.) Publish an annual economic analysis report for the Governor and the SWIB*

The 2008 State of New Mexico Workforce Report expands on the publication format of years past with detailed regional data. The report was tailored to serve the needs of workforce development policymakers, including the Governor, legislators, the state WIB, and local WIBs, and others partners in workforce development. This year's annual report included more data directly applicable to local workforce planners. Data included in the report were developed from a variety of sources, including US Census data, US Department of Education statistics, and other external credible sources of data. The county profiles for each of New Mexico's 33 counties were also updated to support and supplement the Workforce Report.

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

Products and reports produced under the US DOL ETA grant are published on the Department's website to facilitate use by the SWIB and LWIB's, as well as other partners in workforce development. The products include both long-term and short-term industry and occupational projections for the state and for each of the New Mexico MSAs and WIA's. Other products posted on the Internet include special reports such as the annual State of the Workforce Report, the monthly Labor Market Review, County Profiles, the Wage Estimates Delivery System, and the Bureau's report of New Mexico Annual Social and Economic Indicators.

*5.) Partner and consult on a continuing basis with workforce investment boards and key talent development partners and stakeholders*

The state's WIRED leadership team has worked closely with ER&A staff to create a refined directory of business arrayed by employment size and industrial classification. Data developed by ER&A will be a vital component of a new WIRED promotional publication being created for regional Chambers of Commerce and the major local economic development agencies. ER&A staff members continue to partner and consult with both staff and board members of WIBs to provide data support for strategic planning. ER&A staff supports a training mission to ensure that board staff members are trained in the use of workforce information and are conversant and knowledgeable about how to locate data needed for informed decision making and customer support. Additionally, data developed by ER&A is used to forecast local employment trends and to highlight occupations that offer workers jobs with higher than average wages and employers access to a skilled workforce.

ER&A recognizes the long-term commitment to the future workforce needs of the State and provide direct and indirect support to the state's educational community. ER&A staff members serve on boards and provide guidance to educational planners to ensure that the projected needs of the State's economy are considered.

## *6.) Conduct special studies and economic analysis*

ER&A staff continued to provide support for the New Mexico WIRED initiative. Staff members have researched and evaluated data delivery system for use by economic developers and planners. Studies of the projected regional industry and occupational growth, as well as analysis of regional wage information, were supported by data tools produced and maintained by ER&A.

The Economic Research and Analysis Bureau is now conducting extensive research in a special project with the Middle Rio Grande Council of Governments (MRGCOG) to determine transportation needs. The Bureau is using the Local Employment Dynamics [formerly Longitudinal Employment-Household Dynamics (LEHD)] program to support this project. All information from Local Employment Dynamics is now available on a WIA region and county basis on the NMDWS Internet site.

ER&A staff supported the New Mexico legislatively mandated Job Training Incentive Program with information on industry and occupational wage levels and forecasts. An ER&A staff member evaluates economic development proposals submitted to the state's Job Training Incentive Program to determine occupational classification and wages and served as a member of the Job Training Incentive Program Board.

## **B. Customer Consultations**

Customers frequently consult with ER&A to determine the impact of various business openings and closings. The bureau maintains good lines of informal contact with members of workforce boards, economic development organizations and other community or business groups to facilitate the exchange of ideas and information. ER&A staff make presentations of workforce information to WIBs, JSEC meetings, educators, professional organizations, and other business and community organizations. At these presentations, customers are urged to comment on the usefulness and quality of the material produced by the Department. Workshop comments and evaluations are used as the basis for changes to format and content of presentation. Workshop participants are also encouraged to evaluate new products as they are introduced to determine the effectiveness of new or changed material.

The Internet provides an opportunity for continuous consultation, evaluation, and feedback on various ER&A products and services. Data users who obtain access to ER&A products via electronic methods are encouraged to comment on the quality and usefulness of the data they obtain. The ER&A Webmaster receives informal, unformatted feedback and evaluation of products and services on a daily basis.

### **C. Recommendations for Improvements or Changes to the Deliverables**

Customers have frequently noted the need for, and the value of, information that has been localized for their areas. Additional resources from the ETA would be beneficial and would allow state workforce agencies to produce new products and services for local data users.