

Illinois Department of Employment Security,
Economic Information and Analysis Division

PY07 Workforce Information Grant Annual Performance Report
July 1, 2007- June 30, 2008

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

Outcomes

Maintained the current WIDb 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;
- < 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.

Customer Consultations

The major conduit for customer feedback is the search engine that accesses the WIDb, the Illinois Workforce Info Center (WIC). In conjunction with Illinois Workforce Investment Board staff, outreach staff continues to collect feedback on the delivery of workforce information via the WIC and Illinois workNet websites through focus groups of business associations and economic development professionals.

B. Produce and Disseminate Industry and Occupational Employment Projections.

Outcomes

- < Compiled required databases and completed necessary adjustments in order to produce 24 county-based Local Workforce Area (LWA) and 10 Economic Development Region (EDR) data sets for the 2006-2008 short-term and 2006-2016 long-term industry employment projections.
- < Reviewed and finalized Statewide and LWA industry projections.
- < Estimated preliminary Statewide and LWA occupational projections.
- < As a result of previous customer consultation, constructed sub-county long- and short-term industry and occupational employment projections for the three Local Workforce Areas that comprise Cook County.
- < Utilizing updated projections data and customer feedback on content, revised the “Winning Job Opportunities: A Guide for the Formerly Incarcerated in Illinois” (WJO).
- < Based upon customer feedback, redesigned and renamed the “Illinois Job Outlook In Brief” brochure. The updated publication, “Learn More Earn More,” will be distributed in English and Spanish through education and workforce conduits and online (<http://lmi.ides.state.il.us/lmem/lmem.htm>) in August 2008.

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. As is our custom, Local Labor Market Economists expand the list of regional experts from whom input is gathered during the review process for each round of projections.

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

Outcomes

The 2007 Illinois 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). For this second edition, the standard format for the regional data tables and charts was adjusted to focus on more pertinent data and analysis based upon feedback from local economic and workforce development professionals and government staff who were frequent users of the report. Additional detailed data tables and charts for the report were compiled and placed in Excel files and made available online at LMI Source.

Customer Consultations

Local Labor Market Economists regularly refer local and regional workforce development staff and other customers to the pertinent section of the Annual Economic Analysis Report and follow-up to gather feedback on its usefulness.

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

During PY07, staff continued extensive promotional activities to promote the redesigned One Source portal (www.ILWorkInfo.com) as the premier access point for comprehensive, reliable workforce information in Illinois. 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:

Outcomes

- < 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. Number of unique visitors = 136,700.
- < Re-launched **CIS Junior** (formerly "Countdown") in December 2007 to provide improved access to career information via the 16 U.S. Dept. of Education career clusters. All occupational files were updated with descriptions, wages, and employment projections data. Number of unique visitors = 19,275.
- < 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 Economic Development Regions. The site was revamped this year based upon customer suggestions to improve accessibility and ease of use. Number of visitor sessions = 67,425.
- < **LMI Source** continues to serve as the primary point of customer access to data sets and print publications. Customer feedback collected during PY07 will be the basis for a redesign of the website during the upcoming PY08. Number of visitor sessions = 199,500.
- < Updated the **Workforce Info Center** to accommodate additions to the WIDb. Number of unique visitors = 22,300.
- < **I*COMPASS** is an e-learning application designed to provide online training to a wide range of customers, including local workforce and education development partners and staff. Launched in September 2006, I*COMPASS allows users to simultaneously access e-training and Illinois' web-based data sites. Number of unique visitors = 800.

Publications developed and distributed during this program year in both English and Spanish (including *Learn More Earn More*, *Guides to Career Choices*, and *Kids and Careers: How Families Can Help Youth Succeed*) are described in the attached "Illinois Workforce Information Grant Publication List."

Customer Consultations

Staff conducted several focus groups and directed interviews with education and workforce partner agency staff subsequent to their hands-on labor market and career information Web site training in order to solicit feedback for continuous improvement.

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

Outcomes

- < Expanded the partnership with the Illinois Workforce Investment Board (IWIB) and Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (IDCEO) to further incorporate the features of the Career Information System and the most frequently requested labor market information into Illinois workNet, the Virtual One-Stop System, including participation on the IWIB workNet Steering Committee.
- < Provided 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, Information Technology, 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. During PY07, staffed the Economic Development Subcabinet's Regional Nursing Workforce Initiative and chaired its Labor Market Data Support Team.
- < Local Labor Market Economists provided technical assistance to regional economic and workforce development constituencies including:
 - Developed and presented charts and bullet-pointed briefing on the state of the Illinois economy and work force to the Economic Development Subcabinet at its quarterly meetings.
 - Appointment to the Marketing, Economic Development and Youth Council standing committees of the Mid-America Workforce Board.
 - Continued to serve 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.
 - Continued to assist three Local Workforce Boards in Illinois with specialized workforce and career information for their efforts with the local Base Realignment and Closure committees.
 - Provided Current Employment Statistics average hourly wage and average hours worked in the manufacturing sector for all Metropolitan Statistical Areas in Illinois to the Bi-State Regional Commission.
 - Conducted presentation on "Utilizing Workforce, Career and Labor Market Information in Illinois" at the Illinois Workforce Development "Get Skills, Get Workers, Get Connected" Conference in Springfield.
 - Assisted IDES Local Office and Local Workforce Board staff with several Rapid Response efforts throughout the year (including: Methode Electronics, Carthage; Ford Assembly Plant, Torrence Ave., American Coal Mine, Saline County; Chicago; auto parts suppliers affected by the UAW-GM strike; Hershey Chocolate and Confectionery, Robinson; Chrysler and its suppliers, Belvidere; and, Monterey Coal Mine, Macoupin County).
 - Compiled site selection data packages for numerous local and regional efforts throughout the state, e.g. FedEx, Bosch Rexroth, Prairie State Energy Campus, and FutureGen.

- < Outreach staff created “mega trainings” to combine the messages of IDES’ Career Resource Network with the Illinois Student Assistance Commission and Illinois workNet. By partnering with business leaders and education providers to highlight career planning for high-growth and -skilled employment, outreach efforts were revitalized and three well-attended sessions resulted: 1) manufacturing (Metro East); healthcare (central Illinois); and information technology (Chicago). The most successful session was at the Microsoft office in the Loop with over 60 Chicago Public Schools counselors.
- < IDES partnered with Chicago’s Coalition for Improved Education in South Shore (CIESS) through the GearUp (Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs) initiative to conduct a summer program that would assist GearUp students in career exploration, career assessment and career pathway. GearUp is designed to increase the number of low-income students who are academically prepared and ready to succeed in post-secondary education. Services include tutoring, college visits, ACT/SAT preparation, career exploration, job-shadowing and parent involvement activities. Program funds are put into a trust fund to make college scholarships available to students who maintain the required level of academic performance over a sustained period of time. IDES created a summer program for incoming freshmen at South Shore High School in the Chicago Public School System and provided much needed career guidance through the Illinois Career Resource Network. Many of these students were introduced to career exploration for the first time and were very grateful for this information as was evidenced in the end of program evaluation forms completed by the students. At the completion of the summer program, the CIESS GearUp Program Director wrote, “It was a pleasure to have had the Department of Employment Security working with our students. The experiences your Department provided were of great value to each student we serve as they prepare for the fulfillment of the goal of attending college.”
- < At the request of the Chicago Workforce Board’s City-Wide Implementation Team, staff conducted a Career Resource Network website demonstration for the Team, the After School Matters (ASM) Executive Director and staff and Access Living Department Coordinators to address the dual goals of increasing access to job search and training information for the city’s youth and to improve career planning for students with disabilities. Through these collaborative efforts, IDES was able to provide resources for After School Matters instructors and Access Living counselors to use with students and job seekers.
 - After School Matters is a non-profit organization that partners with the City of Chicago and its departments to expand out-of-school opportunities for Chicago teens. By coordinating city resources and anchoring the programs around clusters of public high schools, parks and libraries, ASM enriches the lives of teens and helps to revitalize Chicago's communities.
 - Access Living is a cross-disability (visually-impaired and wheelchair-bound) organization governed and staffed by a majority of people with disabilities. Access Living fosters the dignity, pride, and self-esteem of people with disabilities and enhances the options available to them so they may choose and maintain individualized and satisfying lifestyles. Counselors utilize the Career Information System in their “Ready To Work” workshops in alliance with the Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce Disability Works Program and the Mayor’s Office for People with Disabilities.
- < Outreach staff conducted a career and labor market information resources presentation for 50 Morton School District administrators, educators and counselors. The Morton High School District is located in the Chicagoland suburbs and serves more than 8,000 students from the communities of Berwyn, Cicero, Forest View, Lyons, McCook and Stickney. Many of the counselors were excited to receive the information because they were not aware that the state offered labor market and career planning information tools online. Many of the counselors commented on the usefulness of easily accessible local labor market information to assist them in making career planning more meaningful to students and better suited to address their goals.

- < At the request of the Cook County Sheriff's Department of Community Supervision and Intervention Day Reporting Center, IDES presented both labor market and career resource information to Sheriff's Department case workers to help identify best practices in matching formerly incarcerated youth with available career opportunities using the updated "Winning Job Opportunities: A Guide for the Formerly Incarcerated in Illinois."
- < The University of Illinois at Chicago – Family Start Learning Center, located near the blighted west side of Chicago, assists its clientele with basic job readiness skills. With one of its partner organizations, the Corporation for National & Community Service Americorps, IDES created a job search training session specifically designed for Americorps members. The project was very well received by the staff as evidenced in a written thank you letter and evaluation comments: "I would surely come back to the site to help locate resources for the career I want to go into;" "I will use the information to inform myself about opportunities out there;" and, "the presentation was very professional, both facilitators love their jobs which is what I too want – a career that I love and have a passion for."
- < Staff conducted or participated in over 200 events including the following presentations, exhibits, and capacity-building training sessions for the workforce development and business communities:
 - League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) Conference
 - City Treasurer's Small Business Expo
 - Chicago Business Exchange
 - Women's Entrepreneurial Conference (Chicago);
 - 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.

Customer Consultations

During Program Year 2007, consultations with Local Workforce Board staff, education and workforce development professional and counselors yielded significant feedback on IDES' and DCEO's Web sites (especially Illinois workNet), the *Kids and Careers* brochure, and *Learn More Earn More* to be incorporated during the upcoming program year. For PY08, feedback will be solicited from local and regional economic development organizations and business leaders to address the "lack of career awareness" most often cited by employers as the cause for critical skill shortages.

F. Conduct Special Studies and Economic Analyses.

At the request of the Governor's Office and the Illinois Workforce Investment Board, IDES participated in special studies to analyze the labor supply-demand relationships crucial to developing the required talents and skills among the State's workforce to support growth in Illinois' critical industry sectors: Health Care, Information Technology, Manufacturing, and Transportation and Logistics. During PY07, analysis was completed for the Nursing Workforce Initiative in both the Northeast Economic Development Region (led by Metropolitan Chicago Healthcare Council) and Southern Illinois EDR (led by ConnectSI). IDES' Economic Information and Analysis Division staffed the Committee and chaired the Labor Market Data Support Team.