

Annual Performance Report for
Program Year 2007 Cost Reimbursable Grant for One-Stop
Workforce Information
Priority Products and Services

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

The Workforce Information Database in Maine was updated to version 2.3. The database was populated to the fullest extent possible beyond the core requirements in order to maximize usefulness for state/local information delivery, including publications and data releases.

Occupational Licensing tables were updated in the summer of 2008 in order to comply with the requirement of biennial updates.

B. Produce and disseminate industry and occupational employment projections.

State-level long-term occupational employment projections for the 2006 to 2016 period were developed in adherence to the methodological guidelines and software tools provided by the Projections Consortium and Projections Managing Partnership. Development of long-term industrial projections for seven sub-state regions is underway and expected to be completed by September 30, 2008. Occupational projections for those regions are expected in October. A publication of the 2006 to 2016 industry and occupational projections is completed.

The ALMIS Database will be populated with the projections data and submitted for public dissemination following procedures established by the Projections Consortium and Projections Managing Partnership.

Statewide long-term industry projections: completed April 2008
Statewide long-term occupational projections: completed June 2008
Substate long-term industry projections: completed September 2008
Substate long-term occupational projections: to be completed October 2008

C. Publish annual economic analysis report for the Governor and the Maine Jobs Council (SWIB)

A report analyzing the demographic, economic, and labor market developments in Maine is close to publication for fall of 2008. The report will help the Governor, the SWIB, educators, economic development agencies, and other workforce development entities anticipate the job performance requirements and future needs of Maine workplaces. Employer needs are analyzed and compared to the availability of labor with the goal of providing the means to develop a more comprehensive and integrated workforce development strategy. Data was drawn from many sources to enhance workforce information routinely produced, the synthesis of which forms the backbone of this report.

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

Maine provided electronic public access to the information in the ALMIS Database through the internet version of the Maine Employment Information Guide (MEIG), which was updated and maintained continually. The MEIG includes services specifically designed to meet the needs of individuals and employers.

We are still developing a new, improved web presence. We completed a contract signed with InforME, a private partner with Maine State government that develops and hosts Maine state government websites. InforME completed extensive statistical analysis, usability evaluation, accessibility testing, and an in-depth user survey to assess how our current site is used, what information users are most interested in, how they use the information, and what features/content they would like to see on our website.

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

CWRI maintained an active outreach program with the Maine Jobs Council (state workforce investment boards) and the four local workforce boards. We routinely participated in board meetings and made formal reports and presentations related to strategic workforce challenges facing the State of Maine and we reported routinely on status/trends for statewide and regional economies and labor markets. We field regular requests from both state and local boards to supply research and analysis that is used for the design, development and evaluation of workforce programs. We provided background research and analysis for grant applications and funding proposals.

Over the longer term, we solicited input in a number of ways from board members and staff to ensure that the products and services we provide are responsive to their needs. We attend board meetings regularly and have scheduled meetings with board staff to ensure that their input is solicited and incorporated in product, content and service development; we did presentations as well.

At the request of the Maine Jobs Council, we provided staffing to the Older Worker Committee, made up of employers, service providers, and representatives of business and advocates for the interests of older workers. We regularly provided data and perspective to staff of other Jobs Council committees.

F. Conduct special studies and economic analysis

Communicating labor market and workforce information and effectively supporting customers to interpret and apply such information for planning, analysis, and decision support is one of the most fundamental responsibilities that state LMI units must carry out. Job seekers, employers, career guidance and employment specialists, economic development planners, and those responsible for the evaluation of programs and the analysis of public policies should have the benefit of additional training and technical support to enhance their use of labor market and workforce information. CWRI is deeply committed to consulting with its customers about the efficacy of how labor market and workforce information is presented and how it can be improved. Furthermore, we increasingly focused on collaborating with customer groups, both within and outside of the Maine Department of Labor, to ensure that labor market and workforce information is more intensively applied to the formulation of workforce strategies, the development of education and training programs and integrated with services delivery in Maine's CareerCenter system.

We collaborated with economic development entities in conducting analysis of economic sectors and clusters. This is ongoing through the North Star Alliance (WIRED), our work with metal products (now manufacturing) association, and other initiatives as they arise.

CWRI carried out a series of special studies focused on how Maine workers transitioned from one job to the next as well as how new labor force entrants secure their first job. The nature of this work relied on matching administrative and wage records. We continued a number of important strategies and activities that have contributed to strengthening the delivery of labor market and workforce information. Among our publications are the following:

- Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Employment in Maine: A Labor Market and Workforce Assessment*
- Anatomy of Business Starts and Job Creation in Maine*
- The Impact of International Trade on Maine's Manufacturing Workers*
- Competitive Skills Scholarship Program -2008 Enrollment Profile*
- An Analysis of High-Demand, High Wage Jobs in Maine*
- 2006 Occupational Employment and Wage Estimates for Maine*
- Working Maine: The Labor Market Experiences of the 1998 Graduating Class for Maine's Graduates- an Interim Report*
- An Analysis of the Employment Patterns of Somali Immigrants to Lewiston from 2001 through 2006*
- *Economic News You Can Use* focusing on job developments by labor market and metropolitan area (four regional editions monthly)