

RHODE ISLAND DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND TRAINING

PY 2007 WORKFORCE INFORMATION CORE PRODUCTS AND SERVICES GRANT PERFORMANCE REPORT

July 1, 2007 - June 30, 2008

A. GRANT DELIVERABLES:

1. Continue to Populate the ALMIS Database with state data

<p>Planned Activities: Populate the core tables of the most current version of the Workforce Information Database (2.4) with the latest state data in accordance with guidelines issued by the Analyst Resource Center. Update licensing data files as required and submit to the National Crosswalk Service Center.</p>	<p>Status/Accomplishments: We are currently using version 2.3 of the Workforce Information Database. We have delayed implementing version 2.4 because our internet application, version 7 of <i>RI RED</i>, requires version 2.3 of the database. We plan to make the switch to version 2.4 of the Workforce Information Database as RI implements its new Virtual One-Stop Operating System (VOS) from GeoSolutions over the next few months. We expected this to happen earlier this year but experienced delays in the procurement process. Licensing files were updated with 2006 data and sent to the National Crosswalk Service Center (NCSC) in July 2007.</p>
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2. Produce and disseminate industry and occupational employment projections

<p>Planned Activities: A. Produce statewide long-term industry and occupational projections for the 2006 to 2016 period. Populate the Workforce Information Database with projections. Submit data for public dissemination following procedures developed by the Projections Workgroup and the Projections Managing Partnership.</p>	<p>Status/Accomplishments: We finalized the 2006-2016 industry projections in June 2008. Occupational projections were completed in July 2008. We populated the Workforce Information Database tables and submitted the results to Projections Management Partnership (PMP) upon completion. We loaded the projections data on our LMI web site and our RI RED application. <i>As noted in our grant application, RI does not produce sub-state long-term projections because the small size of our state makes sub-state breakouts unnecessary.</i></p>
<p>Planned Activities: B. Produce and disseminate short-term industry and occupational projections. Populate the ALMIS database with projections for the 2007 to 2009 period. Submit data as required by the Projections Managing Partnership.</p>	<p>Status/Accomplishments: The statewide 2007-2009 short-term projections were completed in June 2008 and the results were submitted to the Projections Management Partnership (PMP).</p>

3. Publish an Economic Analysis Report for the Governor and the State Workforce Investment Board

<p>Planned Activities: Publish an annual state economic analysis report to inform workforce development policy and investment determinations by the governor, the State Workforce Investment Board, the Local Workforce Investment Boards, and other partners. Include pertinent data from the state and other sources.</p>	<p>Status/Accomplishments: Staff researched data sources and assembled a variety of information on the RI economy, jobs and demographics for use by the workforce development system partners. Some of this information was provided to users separately throughout the year and was included in the annual report as well. The publication was not finalized until early September 2008 so that we could include the latest employment data and make it more useful for the Governor's Workforce Board as it begins its fall meeting schedule. The report will be distributed to users and sent to the regional office by the end of September 2008.</p>
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4. Post products, information, and reports on the Internet

<p><u>Planned Activities:</u> A. Maintain the LMI web site and post all products, reports and information on the site.</p>	<p><u>Status/Accomplishments:</u> LMI staff continued to update the LMI web site (www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi) with the latest workforce and economic information. All LMI publications were also made available for downloading from our web site. Links to other resources were updated during the PY. In addition, we upgraded our network server to provide better internet access to our customers and to maintain continuity of service during this program year.</p>
<p><u>Planned Activities:</u> B. Maintain and enhance the RI Research and Economic Database application.</p>	<p><u>Status/Accomplishments:</u> LMI staff worked with the vendor during the last PY to enhance the capabilities of this system. (Web site: www.dlt.ri.gov/rired.) The system's Content Manager gives LMI the capability to redesign web pages and to add content via additional web links. We also worked with our workforce partners during this PY to incorporate the RI RED application into the next One Stop Operating System for Rhode Island. LMI staff helped to set up the criteria for the new system and helped grade and select a final vendor. Fortunately, the Virtual One-Stop product from Geographic Solutions, our current RI RED vendor, was selected as RI's new One-Stop Operating System. As a result of the new agreement, the number of jobs openings available on RI RED was significantly enhanced with almost four times the number of jobs now available for customer on-line searching.</p>
<p><u>Planned Activities:</u> C. Work with the Bureau of the Census to provide data for RI's participation in the Local Employment Dynamics (LED) program. Review Quarterly Workforce Indicator (QWI) results for final state approval. Promote the use of LED data and On the Map application in RI.</p>	<p><u>Status/Accomplishments:</u> The Census Bureau began publishing Rhode Island Quarterly Workforce Indicators on its web site in July 2007. Rhode Island was included in the September 2007 "On The Map" release by the Bureau of the Census. RI sent a representative to the Census sponsored LED Workshop and LED Annual Conference held in March 2007. RI LMI Staff participated in the Workforce³ One webinar on <i>Local Employment Dynamics: On-the-Map Version 3.0</i> in September 2008 and has invited representatives from the Governor's Workforce Board, the local WIBs, the Economic Development Corporation and other users to view the same webinar on September 17th.</p>
<p><u>Planned Activities:</u> D. Continue to notify customers of new data and publications through our electronic <i>LMI Stat Track</i> service.</p>	<p><u>Status/Accomplishments:</u> LMI staff continued this notification process throughout PY 2007. We currently have over 1,000 registered users for this service. We have received several positive feedback comments through this service when new products are provided to customers. Customers like the automatic notification process.</p>

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5. Partner and consult on a continuing basis with workforce investment boards.

Planned Activities:	Status/Accomplishments:
<p>A. Provide support to the state Workforce Investment Board (WIB) and Local WIBs to identify and supply needed information to support strategic planning for workforce investment and responding to changing economic conditions.</p>	<p>LMI Staff work on a continuing basis with staff of the Governor's Workforce Board (GWB) and our two Local Workforce Investment Boards in several areas:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. LMI staff conducted an employer survey to determine the extent to which they invest in training, education and upgrading the skills of their workforce. This survey was done at the request of the Governor's Workforce Board. 2. LMI staff was part of a work group formed by the GWB to develop an inventory map of training resources for state and federal government agencies. 3. LMI staff also provided the GWB and the local WIBs with demographic and Labor market data for their annual plans. Similar data was provided to our Workforce Development Division for their annual plan and for the Department of Elderly Affairs for their annual plan. 4. The local WIBs were provided with information on growing and declining industries for development of their training plans. 5. LMI Staff also provided the GWB with information on high skill versus low skill jobs for RI and the US, current projections, high wage versus low wage jobs, and an analysis of jobs categorized by O*Net job zones. 6. Finally, LMI staff provided data to the GWB for their strategic plan and for an NGA Honor's grant application. 7. LMI provided advice to the GWB on purchasing licenses for the Workforce and Innovation Technical Solution (WITS) software packages for use by the Agency. Three copies are being purchased with one dedicated to use by LMI staff.
<p>B. Provide support to the State Task Force in using labor market information for measuring performance goals for the State's Unified Workforce Development Plan</p>	<p>LMI staff worked with the Unified Plan Task Force and provided input on the performance measures to be used in the State's Unified Workforce Development plan.</p>
<p>C. Provide presentations to various groups interested in labor market information to promote a better understanding of the RI economy.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. LMI Staff provided talking points for our Workforce Development unit for their participation on a panel discussing labor shortages in the Health Care industry. 2. LMI staff made presentations on the RI economy, LMI material and the RI RED application to about 75 people in August 2007 for the RI School Counseling Project at Providenc eCollege. 3. LMI staff demonstrated the RI RED application to some 30 guests at the RI Jump Start Coalition at URI in December 2007. 4. LMI staff did a presentation to 12 members of the the West Bay Collaborative on LMI products in August 2007. 5. In July 2008, another presentation was made to the West Bay Collaborative on LMI products and the RI RED application.

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5. Partner and consult on a continuing basis with workforce investment boards. (continued)	
Planned Activities: C. (continued) Provide presentations to various groups interested in labor market information to promote a better understanding of the RI economy.	6. LMI set up a booth at the Community College of RI Health Care Career Fair with LMI products on display. There were some 250 registrants.
D. Work with the State's Workforce Information Office to provide data for the funding formula for their annual WIA allocations.	LMI staff provided the Workforce Information Office with data on the insured unemployed, declining industries, labor force statistics, UI final payments and State ASU designations.

6. Conduct special studies and analysis.

Conduct special state, local, or sub-state regional studies and economic analyses to provide information support for communities in economic transition, state and sub-state workforce development initiatives, and responses to major layoffs and disasters.

Planned Activities: A. Conduct a statewide Job Vacancy Survey	Status/Accomplishments: 1. Staff developed and conducted a Job Vacancy Survey for this program year. The first survey mailing was sent out in May 2008 with a second mailing in June of 2008. Follow-up calls began in July 2008. The Job Vacancy Survey results were published in September 2008. 2. LMI Staff distributed its 2007 Statewide Job Vacancy and Employee Benefits report and a special Aquidneck Island Job Vacancy and Employee Benefits report to various users in September 2007
Planned Activities: B. Work with the RI Department of Education and the Transcultural Community Health Initiative to develop a Community Health Worker Survey.	Status/Accomplishments: LMI staff met several times during this PY to determine what questions would need to be asked in a Community Health Worker Survey. A draft survey questionnaire was developed and a small grant (\$7,000) was received by the Department of Education to pay part of the survey costs. This task will continue into PY '08.
Planned Activities: C. Participate in a series of Employer Education Seminars developed by our Department to help employers better understand the programs and services available to them.	Status/Accomplishments: During the past program year, LMI staff collaborated with several other DLT divisions on two training sessions to educate employers about the department's services for employers under our <i>Knowledge is Power Employer Series</i> .
Planned Activities: D. Participate in work groups formed around various targeted industries and grant opportunities.	Status/Accomplishments: LMI staff participated in several partnerships with industry representatives to provide information about their industries for planning and grant opportunities. 1. LMI staff participated in a State work group assembled to develop a WIRED grant application. 2. LMI staff continued to work with the Hospitality Industry Partnership during this PY. LMI produced its <i>Leisure, Hospitality and Tourism in the Ocean State</i> publication to help provide background data for this group.

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6. Conduct special studies and analysis. (continued)	
Conduct special state, local, or sub-state regional studies and economic analyses to provide information support for communities in economic transition, state and sub-state workforce development initiatives, and responses to major layoffs and disasters.	
Planned Activities: D. (continued) Participate in work groups formed around various targeted industries and grant opportunities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3. LMI staff worked with the RI Nursing Home Association to verify nursing home classification. 4. LMI staff worked with the RI Tech Collective and Quality Partners to provide requested information. 5. At the request of the Economic Development Corporation, LMI staff provided Charles Lawton/Planning Decision Inc. with information on the Marine Trades Industry in RI. 6. For the Health Care sector, LMI staff worked with the Healthcare Partnership Council and updated its <i>Health Care and Social Assistance in the Ocean State</i> publication during this PY.
Planned Activities: E. Continue publishing our monthly Employment Bulletin and the Governor's Labor Force Brief.	Status/Accomplishments: Employment Bulletins mailed monthly to about 1,100 individuals and businesses. The Governor's Labor Force Brief provided monthly to the Governor, his staff, his cabinet members and the RI Economic Policy Council.

B. Customer satisfaction efforts and feedback

We rely primarily on input we receive from various groups that we participate with during the year for information on their data needs and their reactions to products that we produce. We do occasionally use exit surveys for specific training, such as for our RI RED application. We also receive feedback from our customers on our products, especially those customers on our LMI Stat Track list. We have also benefited from the addition of a full-time Marketing/Communications Director for our department. This person has given LMI data and products more visibility with the media and this has resulted in many articles being published citing our reports and data throughout the program year.

We have received very positive comments on our web site, especially our interactive RI RED application, from many of our users. We continue to get requests for demonstrations of the application to various groups. We provided an overview of RI RED and our LMI web site to some of our One Stop Career Center staff that was well received. LMI staff also made a presentation to a group of career counselors that elicited the following comment from the class instructor "Many thanks for your terrific presentation to my summer career counseling class at Rhode Island College...I offer my congratulations towards your continued devotion to your work and to your professionalism."

Our electronic notification, LMI Stat Track, that goes out to over 1,000 customers has received good reviews for keeping our customers informed when new products and information are available.

C. Recommendations for Improvements or Changes to the Suite of Core Products

No recommendations for changes at this time.