

Virgin Islands Department of Labor
PY2007 Workforce Information Grant
Annual Performance Report
June 30, 2008

A. Accomplishments:

- **Continue to Populate the Workforce Information Database**

During PY 2007, the initial process of the workforce information build out has been accomplished. The necessary hardware and software to host the repository has been procured. A contractor has been hired to begin the process of updating our web content delivery software to publish WID information. Solicitations for the WID system have been sent out and the Department is currently in the process of negotiating for a service provider to host the Territories data and WID structure. This phase is expected to begin in early August 2008.

- **Produce and disseminate industry and occupational employment projections:**

Labor market data on industry and occupational employment for 2007 have been published on the Department's web site. An industry and occupational projection model is currently in the stages of development and technical assistance has been requested to begin the framework and structure to deliver such data for the Virgin Islands. The VIDOL will adopt the procedures established by the projections workgroup and projections managing partnership. It is expected that short and long term projections should be available by PY2008 program year.

- **Publish an annual economic analysis report for the Governor and the WIB.**

An annual economic analysis report was submitted to the Governor and the chairman of the WIB. This report outlined the most current economic data for the Territory. The report outlined the economic landscape for the past five years (2002-2006), and provided a labor force analysis to include participation rates and annual growth rates. Also included in the report were analyses of the Virgin Islands industries and their growth rates in accordance with NAICS classification, which detailed the gross pay and employment by sectors. Another section in the report was an occupational review from OES (Occupational Employment Statistics) data.

- **Post product information on the Internet**

The VIDOL's web site contains all information pertaining to the Virgin Islands labor market. However, the web site is currently under a redesign to install a web content management system to facilitate and improve upon the capabilities of delivering up to date information for our customers. The initial roll out of the design is expected by August 2008 and full integration into the workforce database by December 2008. In addition, the Department has officially become a partner with the US Census Bureau's LED (Labor Employment Dynamics) program. Technical staff of VIDOL and Census have formed a team and will begin the process of transmitting data to post the Territories employment information. Roll out of this program is expected by early 2009 and will be available through the web site.

- **Partner and consult with the WIB**

The VIDOL's Labor Market unit continually partners with the state WIB and provides support, consultation, and services. In PY07, talks have begun to bridge the labor market and economic research bureaus to conduct macro and micro economic studies, conduct a symposium for employers, and the business community organizations. In addition to the general labor market information on the workforce, the labor market information unit has also been tasked with assisting with the Governor's CEDS (Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy), this strategy will be the executive branch's policy for developing opportunity within the business and workforce sectors. Key labor market information and data will buttress and guide the decision makers as the Virgin Islands moves forward with enhancing and creating regional economies within our island districts.

- **Conduct special studies and economic analyses**

The Virgin Islands has not conducted any special studies in PY2007, however talks have begun with the WIB (Workforce Investment Board) to conduct an occupational sector study on wages and skills within the Territory. The intent is for the board to use this data to compare with the job vacancies in the Virgin Islands and ascertain the growing

occupations within each industrial sector. Such a study will augment the need for providing enhancements to our talent development system and provide trained and qualified workers in the pipeline.

B. Customer Consultation

Consultation with customers is based on a case by case scenario. During PY2007, labor market analyst fielded numerous calls and provided ongoing assistance to customers within the Virgin Islands for information on the Labor Market. It is expected with our new partnerships that in PY 2008 and going forward the outreach and consultations with potential investors and existing partners will expand.