

Wyoming's Annual Report PY 2007 Workforce Information Core Products and Services Grant

1. Continue to populate the Workforce Information Database (WID) with state and local data:
 - The Wyoming Department of Employment Research and Planning (R&P) is upgrading from Ciber Version 2.2 to Version 3.1. R&P has moved through several sequential versions (2.2, 2.3, and 3.0) in this process. R&P is working directly with Ciber to complete the upgrades. In conjunction with this upgrade to the WID delivery tool, R&P is also simultaneously upgrading the WID to the latest version. R&P has continued to populate the WID throughout the Ciber upgrade process to ensure that up-to-date data will be available when the Ciber upgrades are completed. Wyoming's WID analyst serves on various ARC Committees and has attended off-site ARC training during the program year.
 - The WID database is currently up to date (Version 2.4). Wyoming submitted in June, 2008 the Licensing data to the National Crosswalk Service Center as required per TEGL 29-06.
 - Aggregate expenses for this category are \$18,908.04 (as of June 30, 2008).
2. Produce and disseminate industry and occupational employment projections:
 - R&P produced statewide base projections for both the 2007-2009 short-term and 2006-2016 long-term periods as required by TEGL 29-06. These projections were provided to the Projections Managing Partnership per their instructions during June, 2008. They have been posted on R&P's website at (<http://doe.state.wy.us/lmi/projections.htm>). R&P also published and mailed long-term (2004-2014) state-wide and sub-state projections during the grant period. A copy of this hard copy publication can be found on R&P's website at (http://doe.state.wy.us/lmi/projections_08_14.pdf).
 - This conforms to the deliverable schedule.
 - Aggregate expenses for this category are \$31,675.97 (as of June 30, 2008).
3. Publish an annual economic analysis report:
 - R&P, in cooperation with the SWA and SWIB, completed and published the 2008 annual report (distributed in May 2008 at the annual Governor's Summit see <http://wyowdc.org/summit/2008/index.aspx>). An electronic copy of this hard copy report can be found at (<http://doe.state.wy.us/lmi/annualreport08.pdf>).
 - This conforms to the deliverable schedule.
 - Aggregate expenses for this category are \$18,713.31 (as of June 30, 2008).
4. Post products, information, and reports on the Internet:
 - All products that R&P produces under this grant will be posted on the internet on R&P's main website (<http://doe.state.wy.us/lmi/>). Posted products under this grant include:

State Annual Report <http://doe.state.wy.us/lmi/annualreport08.pdf>

Industry and Occupational Projections <http://doe.state.wy.us/lmi/projections.htm>.
WID Database <http://doe.state.wy.us/ANSWERS/>
Commuting Studies <http://doe.state.wy.us/lmi/commute.pdf>

- This grant item conforms to the deliverable schedule.
 - Aggregate expenses for this category are \$17,729.25 (as of June 30, 2008).
5. Partner and consult on a continuing basis with workforce investment boards:
- During PY2006 R&P produced an inter-county commuting study at the request of the SWA and SWIB (see <http://www.wyowdc.org/docs/CommutingPatternsStudy.pdf> and http://doe.state.wy.us/LMI/commuter_flow_2007.pdf). The SWA and SWIB, through consultation, requested that the study be enhanced to include information on out-of-state worker flows into Wyoming's counties. During PY2007 R&P produced an enhanced commuting study for the SWA and SWIB examining inter-state sources of labor. This study can be found on R&P's website at (<http://doe.state.wy.us/lmi/commute.pdf>).

A representative of R&P attends all of the SWIB meetings to stay abreast of current SWIB activities and needs along with participation in on-going meetings with the SWA and SWIB through the SWIB sub committee specifically assigned to address the Workforce Information grant (specifically the SWIB Communications sub-committee).

- This grant item conforms to the deliverable schedule.
 - Aggregate expenses for this category are \$18,713.31 (as of June 30, 2008).
6. Conduct special studies and economic analysis:

During late PY2006 and early PY2007 R&P pursued the possibility of conducting succession planning research with Wyoming's Department of Administration and Information (A&I) on state government employees. This topic had been approved by Mr. Lipnicky. The project enhances a SWA led initiative through a National Governor's Association sponsored policy academy on civic engagement of older workers. The original plan, initiated by A&I in response to a pilot study conducted among Wyoming Department of Employment employees (see report at http://doe.state.wy.us/lmi/SP_Report.pdf), was to involve five state agencies. Due to circumstances beyond the control of R&P, two of the original five state agencies interested in the project opted not to participate. However, the Departments of Family Services, Employment, and Workforce Services all chose to participate (to include some matching monies) and have their employees participate in a survey assessing a number of topics to include retirement plans.

- This grant item is well under way and a complete published report will be provided to the three agencies involved shortly after this performance report is due to the regional office on September 30, 2008. Complications with agencies opting out of the study delayed the Memorandum of Understanding process and thus the start of the project.
- Aggregate expenses for this category are \$28,917.35 (as of June 30, 2008).

A. Customer Consultation

- The primary method for customer consultation is to meet in person and/or by phone conference on a recurring basis with the SWIB Data and Communications sub-committee. This sub-committee is staffed by the SWA policy analyst. In this manner, R&P can ascertain the needs of the SWA and SWIB for labor market information. R&P staff representatives also attend all of the SWIB meetings, take notes while at these meetings, are frequently asked to present research findings or to answer questions regarding LMI, and review the meeting notes once they are published. The most recent outcomes from these customer consultations has been the production of inter-state commuting flows (see 5 above). Additional consultation during PY2007 revealed a need for additional commuting studies and enhanced occupational projections with an eye toward sector strategies being pursued by the SWA and SWIB. These activities will be pursued in PY2008.
- As an additional activity this year, R&P surveyed recipients of our monthly *Trends* newsletter. To gauge the effectiveness of these media and the satisfaction of users, R&P sent a survey to individuals on the mailing list for *Trends*. Recipients were asked to rate their satisfaction with *Trends*, comment on how they use the publication and R&P's website, suggest improvements, and indicate their interest in e-mail notification when publications are available online. According to survey results, respondents are satisfied with *Trends*. Additionally, respondents reported that they use *Trends* in connection with employment and unemployment data, health care issues, workforce training, wage data, career planning courses, presentations for and work with clients, employee recruitment, grant applications, regional data, and industry information, among others. The complete results of this survey can be found at (<http://doe.state.wy.us/lmi/0708/toc.htm>).
- Research and Planning (on a monthly basis) tracks all customer and media contacts. This information serves multiple purposes. It provides R&P with a monthly recurring metric for gauging interest in various LMI topics and helps us to respond more rapidly to hot spot issues. The data gathered also form the basis for the annual level of demand report prepared for and on behalf of the Workforce Information Council (see <http://www.workforceinfocouncil.org/>). The WIC utilizes this information in a number of ways to include demonstrating to Congress the value and extensive utilization of labor market data produced by the Bureau of Labor Statistics cooperative agreement as well as ETA's Workforce Information Core Products and Services Grant.

B. Recommendation for Improvements or Changes to Deliverables

- The quality of LMI is threatened by diminished Federal funding. Wyoming recommends restoring lost funding.