

Annual Performance Report For
Program Year 2006 Cost Reimbursable Grant for One-Stop
Workforce Information

Priority Products and Services

(1) Continue to populate the ALMIS (America's Labor Market Information System) Database with State Data

Maine's Workforce Information Database reflects version 2.3 of the database structure. Populating of the database with updated data has been ongoing. Occupational licensing tables were updated to conform with requirements. Staff training was a priority to ensure the full utilization of this resource in meeting national, state, and local customer needs.

(2) Produce and disseminate industry and occupational employment projections.

State-level long-term occupational employment projections for the 2004 to 2014 period were developed in adherence to the methodological, software tools and guidelines provided by the Projections Consortium and Projections Managing Partnership. Six substate area long-term, industrial and occupational projections for the same base year and projected year were completed. A publication of the 2004 to 2014 industry and occupational projections was developed.

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

In lieu of short-term projections, Maine conducted a job Vacancy Survey. The survey results provide data about the quantity and quality of job openings, including the number of job opening by business size, industry and geographic location (LWIBs). Information on wages, benefits offered, education and experience, vacancy duration and full/part-time status will also be collected. Survey results will assist decision making by policy makers, training service providers, businesses and job seekers.

(3) Provide occupation and career information products for public use.

Occupational and career information products were developed for job seekers, employers, and other CareerCenter customers using the latest occupational employment projections. The series of brochures and publications describing CWRI products and career opportunities that were updated include *Job Journeys*, *Hot Jobs in Maine*, *Highest Paying Jobs in Maine*, *Employment Changes in Maine*, and *Careers for Maine College Graduates*.

The 2006 Occupational Employment and Wage Estimates for Maine & Maine Counties were published in the spring of 2007. Also published were *Employment and Earnings Outcomes for Recently Arrived Refugees in Portland, Maine* and *Education, Gender, and the Workforce: The Labor Market Experiences of the 1994/95 Entering Class of the University of Maine* in the fall of 2006.

We maintained availability of these products, including enhancements to, and a new version of, the *Maine Employment Info Guide* via our website.

(4) Ensure that workforce information and support required by state and local workforce investment boards are provided.

The Division of Center for Workforce Research and Information maintains an active outreach program with the Maine Jobs Council (state workforce investments board) and the four local workforce boards. We routinely participate in board meetings and make formal reports and presentations related to strategic workforce challenges facing the State of Maine and we report 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 provide background research and analysis for grant applications and funding proposals.

Over the longer term, we solicit 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 meeting regularly and have scheduled meeting with board staff to ensure that their input is solicited and incorporated in product, content and service development.

At the request of the Maine Jobs Council, we provide regular staffing to the Council's Industry Advisory Committee, made up of employers and representatives of business and trade associations. In addition, we provide regular staffing to the Older Worker Committee, made up of employers, service providers, and representatives of business and advocates for the interests of older workers.

(5) Maintain and enhance electronic workforce information delivery systems.

The updated ALMIS Employer Database was made available to the appropriate individuals and entities on CD. The database was networked to Maine's CareerCenters. The employer Database was also incorporated into full-service interactive CWRI product, the Maine Employment Info Guide.

All necessary tables in the Workforce Information Database were updated to reflect version 2.3 of the database structure. All core tables of the database were updated in line with printed publications of the data.

(6) Support State workforce information training activities.

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 CWRI 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. The Division of Center for Workforce Research and 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 continued a number of important strategies and activities that have contributed to strengthening the delivery of labor market and workforce information.