



MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT *of* EMPLOYMENT SECURITY

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

LES RANGE

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

August 17, 2011

Dr. Helen Parker
Regional Administrator
U. S. Department of Labor/ETA
Atlanta Federal Center
61 Forsyth Street Room 6M12
Atlanta, GA 30303

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
OFFICE OF EMPLOYMENT SECURITY

Dear Dr. Parker:

As required in Attachment V of the TEGL 3-10, the Mississippi Department of Employment Security is submitting its Annual Report of Activities for the Program Year 2010 Workforce Information Core Products and Services Grant.

Sincerely,

A blue ink signature of Les Range, written over a horizontal line.

Mr. Les Range
Executive Director
MS Department of Employment Security

A blue ink signature of Larry Otis, written over a horizontal line.

Mr. Larry Otis
Chairman
State Workforce Investment Board

**Mississippi
Annual Performance Report
ETA One Stop LMI Grant
PY 2010 (7/1/2010 – 6/30/2011)**

Accomplishments

(1) Continue to populate the Workforce Information Database with state and local data.

Mississippi has continued to update the Workforce Information database with required data sets as established by the Analyst Resource Center. The database is available on the Labor Market Information section of the MDES agency website. We are using the most current version of the database to ensure consistency with other states and constantly work to update the system with current information or revised data as it becomes available.

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

Mississippi produced short-term projections for the 2010 to 2012 period. Long-term occupational and industry projections were finalized and disseminated for the following sub-state levels: four Metropolitan Statistical Areas, four Workforce Investment Areas, and thirteen Community College Districts. The additional areas provide greater flexibility and more local data for users for special projects and initiatives. All projections were produced using the methodology, software tools, and guidelines developed by the Projections Workgroup and the Projections Managing Partnership. The WIDb was populated with the short-term and long-term projections. Two LMI staff members attended the Projections Managing Partnership Summit in New Orleans, LA.

(3) Conduct and publish relevant economic analyses, special workforce information, and/or economic studies determined to be of benefit to the governor and state and local WIBs.

In addition to the wide variety of publications that the Labor Market Information Department is required to publish, the following items were produced during PY 2010.

The Labor Market Information Department created an annual "Occupations in Demand" publication series that is available on the agency's website. The publication is intended to highlight the high growth/high demand occupations in a geographic area. In addition, occupations are analyzed by educational requirements where the top jobs are provided based on the average wages paid and the projected annual openings in the area. The Occupation in Demand series is updated annually for the State and each of the Workforce Investment Areas in Mississippi.

Created area specific occupational wages and staffing patterns along with labor force statistics and industry employment amounts to support general economic development and research efforts or to assist individual employers interested in locating in a certain area. The wage estimates for smaller geographic areas were produced using the Estimates Delivery System by combining contiguous surrounding counties in order to produce as many occupations as possible while maintaining confidentiality standards associated with the data.

Mississippi created an annual economic analysis report and is providing copies to the Office of the Governor and the State Workforce Investment Board. As directed in the planning guidance, UI data and data from outside sources were incorporated in the report.

The Labor Market Information department created the Mississippi's 2009 Business Population which includes statistics on business births, deaths and changes in ownership. LMI included local UI statistics (initial claims, continued claims and benefits paid) in the monthly publication. LMI also partnered with other departments within MDES to provide data for various presentations along with an overview publication of the various data produced by the Labor Market Information Department. This is considered a valuable form of outreach and should increase use of data that is produced.

During PY 2010, we began reviewing agency administrative data such as quarterly wage records and employment service applicant records. Through our analysis of applicant records we have been able to identify and report a variety of demographic and geographic data which tells us and others about the customers that we serve along with more detailed information about the potential labor pool that exists in Mississippi. This data can be used by local office managers, WIA staff, and economic developers to gain insight into the pool of available workers in their respective areas. We are able to create this data at the State, WIA, county, and city levels. A specific project which originated from our review of wage records is to analyze a file of individuals that received a final payment and then trace their wage earnings prior to receiving a final payment to determine pre-exhaustion earnings. The next step was to trace those individuals forward in time so that we could determine if they found a job, determine how long it took them to find a job, determine if their future earnings were greater or less than their pre-exhaustion earnings, and see if they had changed industries. The data should allow us to see if an individual's future earnings were impacted by the length of time involved in finding a job. We will also be able to provide some summary level demographics about the various groups identified in this study such as gender, race, age, and educational attainment. This study is estimated to be complete by the end of September 2011.

(4) Post products, information and reports on the Internet

All publications produced by the Labor Market Information Department are available on the MDES website with the exception of one tri-fold publication. Due to the design of the publication we feel that it is best to continue to create and mail or to provide this publication through exhibits where agency personnel are present.

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

During PY 2010, Labor Market Information had ongoing phone conversations with the Workforce Investment Area directors. We discussed information that is already available and additional information we could produce for them. We have continued to produce occupational projections, industry employment projections, labor force statistics, and occupational wage estimates for each of the workforce investment areas within Mississippi and will continue to provide requested information for inclusion in the annual plans for the state and local boards. During the upcoming year we will explore opportunities to expand our capabilities in this area. The Labor Market Information Department made a presentation at the Governor's Workforce Conference. The presentation included what information is available, how to obtain the information and what additional types of information can be produced on request.

Customer Consultation

During PY 2010, the Labor Market Information Department continued tracking the various requests for data. An electronic log is maintained to document the various customer types that request data, what was requested, and how it was resolved. This has proven to be a valuable resource to assist us in identifying areas where communication or outreach needs to be improved. It also has proven to be useful in documenting the wide variety of customers and the frequency of the requests. LMI staff met with the MS Economic Council. We discussed available data and any data needs that they might have. In addition, we have met directly with several customers requesting data and have identified areas where data can be consolidated to provide better reports and information that will be more useful to various groups.

We have continued to monitor usage of website publications. For PY 2010, Labor Market Information publications received over 111,000 hits on the MDES website.

Recommendations for Improvements or Changes to the Deliverables

The Mississippi Labor Market Information Department has no recommendations at this time.