September 26, 2006

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

Dear Dr. Parker:

The State of Mississippi submits the attached Program Year 2005 Workforce Information Core Products and Services Annual Report for your review and approval.

If you have any questions please contact Wayne Gasson at (601) 321-6239.

Sincerely,

Tommye Dale Favre
Executive Director
MS Department of Employment Security

As required in the planning instructions of the TEGL 33-04, The Mississippi Department of Employment Security is submitting its Annual Report of Activities for the Program Year 2005 Workforce Information Core Products and Services Grant.

Ms. Tommye Dale Favre
Executive Director
MS Department of Employment Security

Mr. George Schloegel, Chairman
State Workforce Investment Board

# Mississippi
## Annual Performance Report
## ETA One Stop LMI Grant
## PY 2005 (7/1/05 – 6/30/06)

## Accomplishments

(1) Continue to populate the ALMIS database with state data.

Mississippi has continued to update the ALMIS database with required data sets as established by the ALMIS database consortium. The database is available on the Labor Market Information section of the agency website. Two staff attended the national ALMIS database consortium meeting during PY 2005.

Met planned outcomes for this item.

(2) Produce and disseminate industry and occupational employment projections

Long-term occupational projections were created and are available on the agency's website. Long-term occupational projections were created for the State of Mississippi, four Metropolitan Statistical Areas, four Workforce Investment areas, and thirteen Community College Districts.

Industry projections were also published during PY 2005. Industry projections were produced for the State of Mississippi, four Metropolitan Statistical Areas, four Workforce Investment areas, and thirteen Community College Districts, and are available on the agency's website.

Short-term occupational projections were created and provided to the national consortia as required and have been published on their site.

Met planned outcomes

(3) Provide occupational and career information products for public use

During PY 2005 the "Occupations in Demand" publications were updated. The publication breaks down occupational projections by educational requirements and provides wages as an additional source. A variety of tables are provided along with explanations of terms and sources. Provided in hard copy and on the agency website, copies were provided to all local One Stop locations and school districts in Mississippi. Occupations in Demand publications have been created for the State of Mississippi and each of the four workforce investment areas.

The Occupational wage estimates published for Mississippi have been enhanced with entry and experienced amounts using the Estimates Delivery System (EDS). The EDS system has allowed the production of occupational wage estimates and

employment for the four Workforce Investment Areas in Mississippi. The publications are provided for each of the areas above in two formats, one shows all occupations in the area listed in SOC code and the second format allows unfamiliar users to select occupational groups to narrow down their choice. A link to the Standard Occupational Coding (SOC) system is also provided to assist users; the SOC link provides descriptions of the occupations along with the relevant code.

Partnered with several workforce development agencies, state agencies and colleges & universities to sponsor a publication that was submitted to all Mississippi high school students from the 10th through 12th grade. The LMI department provided occupational projection and wage data along with some industry specific occupational data to be published in the magazine and provided funds to assist with publication and dissemination. The goal of the magazine is to provide educational and occupational information that will allow students to plan for their future career.

Met planned deliverables for this item.

(4) Ensure that workforce information and support required by state and local Workforce Investment Boards are provided.

A wide variety of requests from many types of customers were received and satisfied during PY 2005. The LMI Department has continued to publish a variety of publications to meet various customer needs, including an Affirmative Action publication, Mississippi Business Population statistics, Historical Data, Quick Reference sheets, LMI Guide, Annual Labor Force Reports, Annual Average publications and a wide variety of maps that provide a customer friendly approach to the presentation of data. In addition we create statistics for each of the workforce areas for labor force amounts (current and historical), occupational wages, industry and occupational projections, and meet special requests as they are received.

In order to respond to a request by the Governor's Office of Mississippi; we sponsored a special survey of employers who were directly impacted by Hurricane Katrina. The goal of this survey was to determine and identify workforce challenges faced by employers in the months following the disaster. Employers from eleven counties were randomly selected for this survey. Questions dealt with the numbers of employees that were laid off and if any of those individuals were rehired to challenges that employers faced with hiring such as lack of people or individual's with appropriate skills.

Met planned deliverables for this item.

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

We have continued to focus on electronic dissemination of available Labor Market Information products. All publications of the LMI Department are available on the agency website except for one that is mailed monthly; the design of that publication (trifold) makes it impractical to place on the website. We plan to review the presentation of data and search for ways to improve communicating with users that are unfamiliar with our site or available products and possibly tailor the presentation to specific user groups

Met planned deliverables for this item.

(6) Support state workforce information training activities

During PY 2005 LMI staff attended training sessions for the ALMIS database, Micro-Matrix software training for the software used to create occupational and industry projections, Estimates Delivery System training on software used to create the occupational wage estimates for areas other than those created by federal mandate (State and Metropolitan Statistical Areas), and training on the software used to present and maintain the ALMIS database. There was less training than in prior years as there was a policy instituted for no out of state travel for about four months after Hurricane Katrina

In addition, LMI staff presented overviews of Labor Market Information programs and products to a variety of customer groups when requested. Outreach will be a major goal for the upcoming year.

## Expenditures for PY 2005

During PY 2005 the MDES LMI Department expenditures related to the One-Stop LMI grant were $448,152. Planned expenditures were $474,261. The net difference of $26,109 represents 5.5% and is not considered to be material.

## Customer Satisfaction Assessment

During PY 2005 our method of customer satisfaction resulted from conversations and requests from various customers; ranging from data that is available to the presentation of amounts on the agency website, and tracking website usage based on the number of hits recorded on the LMI section of the agency website. We will look at alternative methods of capturing customer satisfaction during the upcoming program year, with plans focusing on electronic surveys, as that appears to be the most cost efficient method. Overall customers seem to be pleased with the data provided and the timely delivery of information related to data requests. It appears that we need to increase our outreach activities in the upcoming year to make more groups aware of the various types of LMI information that are available.

## Recommendations for improvements or changes to the suite of core products

Mississippi has no recommendations.