

Illinois Department of Employment Security  
Economic Information and Analysis Division

**PY10 Workforce Information Grant Annual Performance Report**  
July 1, 2010 - June 30, 2011

**A. Populate the Workforce Information Database (WIDb) with State and Local Data.**

Maintained the current WIDb and updated all core tables as required and according to guidelines as data became available. Through the search engine utilized in Illinois, the Workforce Info Center (WIC) (<http://illinois.virtuallmi.com/>), this database supports informed local and regional workforce analysis and employer services. Staff review feedback on the delivery of workforce information via the WIC and enhancements are identified for the appropriate internal implementation or prioritization for the Virtual LMI Consortium.

**B. Produce and Disseminate Industry and Occupational Employment Projections.**

- ▶ Assembled, reviewed and posted statewide 2010-2012 short-term and substate 2008-18 long-term industry and occupational employment projections.
- ▶ Updated online and print employment projections publications "Learn More Earn More" (<http://lmi.ides.state.il.us/lmem/lmem.htm>) in both English and Spanish.
- ▶ Customer contact via email or phone for assistance with the analysis and interpretation of projections data continues to be the principal source of feedback on projections data.

**C. 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.**

Based upon ongoing consultations with state and local workforce board and partner agency staff, during PY10 Economic Information and Analysis staff leveraged resources to conduct workforce analyses to address several critical workforce and economic development strategies in Illinois. Of special note are the Veterans, Green Jobs, and Healthcare studies.

- ▶ "The Transition of Illinois Veterans from Military Discharge to Stable Civilian Employment" ([http://lmi.ides.state.il.us/PDFs/Vet\\_report.pdf](http://lmi.ides.state.il.us/PDFs/Vet_report.pdf))

A better understanding of the transition of recently discharged Illinois veterans from military discharge to stable civilian employment would allow a more efficient utilization of available resources to better serve the veteran population. To that end, the Illinois WIB and its lead agencies commissioned a study and report based on data obtained from the Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs (IDVA) on Illinois veterans discharged from 2001-2010. Key characteristics of the discharges from the IDVA data were merged with other data sources including: unemployment claims, wage records for covered Illinois employment and federal government employment, and education/training records. Additional analysis was completed using national data for the populations of all veterans and nonveterans in order to allow for a thorough comparison of the two groups in regard to their unemployment rates, labor force participation rates, and employment by industry and occupation.

- ▶ "Illinois Green Jobs Survey Summary Report" ([http://lmi.ides.state.il.us/PDFs/Green\\_Survey\\_report.pdf](http://lmi.ides.state.il.us/PDFs/Green_Survey_report.pdf))

To better promote the development of training programs for green jobs in Illinois, it was necessary to establish the employment levels within green industries and occupations in Illinois. Based upon definitions developed through a combined effort of staff from state workforce agencies (including the Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES) and the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO)), the Illinois Green Jobs Survey was designed

to: 1) estimate the number of “green jobs” in Illinois; 2) determine the type of skills required by green jobs; 3) identify the type of training necessary to obtain these skills; and, 4) ascertain which skills are in demand, yet lacking by the current labor force. The Illinois Green Jobs survey was conducted in early-2011 on five green industry sectors:

- ▶ Agriculture and Natural Resources;
- ▶ Architecture and Construction;
- ▶ Energy, Utilities, and Waste Management;
- ▶ Manufacturing; and,
- ▶ Transportation, Distribution and Logistics.

A sixth green industry sector, “Universities, Junior Colleges, and Community Colleges” was also included to capture the higher education portion of green employment. These six sectors were sampled at a higher rate and the employment estimates produced denoted as “Presumed Green.” Establishments not in these six sectors (All Other Industries) were sampled at a lower rate and the resulting employment estimates labeled as “Presumed Not Green.” The Core Areas for Green Jobs (CAGJ) concept that was used to provide another way of describing the type of green jobs available in the labor market. The four CAGJs are: Increasing Energy Efficiency; Producing Renewable Energy; Preventing and Reducing Environmental Pollution; and, Providing Mitigation or Cleanup of Environmental Pollution.

▶ Governor’s Economic Development Subcabinet, Regional Healthcare Workforce Initiative  
In conjunction with the Illinois Workforce Investment Board, Illinois Center for Nursing, and several state agencies (Board of Higher Education, Dept. of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, Community College Board, and Dept. of Financial and Professional Regulation), IDES has chaired the LMI Support Team and developed a consensus approach for estimating the supply-demand balance in critical healthcare occupations in Illinois and its Economic Development Regions (EDRs). For example, utilizing industry and occupational employment projections, licensure information, educational completer data, and the results from an expanded Nursing Workforce Survey conducted by the Center for Nursing, the Team works with regional healthcare sector employers and associations to estimate the surplus/shortage of Registered Nurses and identified possible leakages in the supply pipeline within the state and each region.

As a result, the initial partner (Northeast, Metropolitan Chicago Healthcare Council; and, Southern, ConnectSI) regions have identified supply leakages and root causes, piloted solutions to gauge the impact on supply-demand, and are evaluating next steps.

In the upcoming years, the Team is expanding its supply-demand analysis to include other critical healthcare occupations such as Advanced Practice Nurses, nursing faculty, Physical Therapists and Physical Therapy Assistants, Occupational Therapists and Physical Therapy Assistants, Pharmacists and Pharmacy Technicians, and Health Information Technicians.

#### **D. Post Products, Information, and Reports on the Internet.**

To assist partners and local stakeholders to achieve the State Workforce Investment Plan’s goals of economic self-sufficiency and business growth, IDES’ online labor market and career information systems continue to provide access to tools and services that enable customers to make informed career and occupational decisions. In order to insure accessibility to all stakeholders in the Illinois Workforce Development System, IDES’ web sites maintain their linkages to Illinois workNet and provide analysis of employment trends, educational, training and skill requirements, wages, career advancement opportunities, and labor market conditions with a demand-driven focus on major employing industries in the state. As a result, in PY10 426,300 customers visited Illinois’ labor market and career information web sites.

- ▶ The updated 2010-2011 Career Information System (CIS) and CIS Junior were released to the Web as scheduled in September and December 2010. Number of unique visitors, CIS = 131,530; CIS Junior = 23,360.
- ▶ LMI Source is the primary point of access to labor market data for most customers. Number of unique visitors = 197,025.
- ▶ Illinois' Workforce Info Center serves as the WIDb platform. Number of unique visitors = 30,750.
- ▶ As a result of consultations with customers and partners, IDES launched a new version of its online career information system targeted to adult job seekers and career changers, ReNEW (<http://ilcis.intocareers.org/loginmain.aspx?SiteType=3&cookieTest=y&force=y>). 540 occupations are described with their typical wages, duties, what education or training is needed, and the outlook for hiring. ReNEW has job search tips, videos of interviewing do's and don'ts, and an employer locator which gives contact information for local businesses. Veterans, disabled workers, and those over 50 can find more links in the Job Boards & Resources section of ReNEW. The Military Employment section shows how armed services experience can be translated to civilian occupations. Non-traditional Employment has suggestions for women considering new options. In addition, ReNEW includes the Jobseekers Success Mindset Training (JSMT), an online course to build confidence and resilience even through the inevitable stress of being rejected before finding a new position. A job seeker in Lake Forest emailed, "The Jobseeker Mindset tools ... are particularly helpful in keeping my spirits up, my efforts focused and my mind out of panic-mode. Thank you so much for offering this free of charge to job seekers. It is so easy to get discouraged. It is very helpful to have the tools and mindset to persevere."

**E. Partner and Consult on a Continuing Basis with Workforce Investment Boards and Key Talent Development Partners and Stakeholders.**

- ▶ Again this program year, IDES continued to expand and enhance the incorporation of the Career Information System and the most frequently requested labor market information into Illinois workNet as part of our partnership with the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (IDCEO) and Illinois Workforce Investment Board (IWIB).
- ▶ Updated, refined and expanded occupational supply-demand balance analysis for the IWIB's and Economic Development Subcabinet's Regional Nursing Workforce Initiative.
- ▶ Provided monthly Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS), Current Employment Statistics (CES), Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) summary reports and Mass Layoff Statistics (MLS) data, in requested formats, by Economic Development Regions (EDRs) and Local Workforce Areas (LWAs) to Governor's Office, IDCEO, IWIB, and to all Local Workforce Investment Boards.
- ▶ Local Labor Market Economists provided technical assistance to local and regional economic and workforce development partners and their constituents by:
  - Serving on Local WIB Youth Councils, advisory committees, and standing committees.
  - Compiling data for reports and presentations for/to economic development professionals, Chambers of Commerce, Boards of Education, and local elected officials.
  - Assisting local and regional Rapid Response teams in their efforts.
  - Preparing data for site selection packages to support local business attraction efforts.
- ▶ Highlights of outreach activities conducted during PY10 to support key partners and stakeholders include:
  - Two sessions for Jewish Vocational Services (Chicago) staff to train the trainers to use the *Job Seekers Guide* (print) and the online version. This is a comprehensive workbook/website pair to assist JVS clientele with a broad range of career management topics: budgeting, career exploration, job search, skill building, goal setting, and finding a job. This work was conducted under a USDOL grant with iSeek Solutions and the International Association of Jewish Vocational Services. The targeted end-user audience was low-income, limited proficiency job seekers. The customized online version of

Illinois' printed "Job Seeker's Guide to Conducting Online Career Exploration" has been posted at <http://il.jobseekersguide.org/>.

- Women in Green conference (presenter) in East Peoria at Illinois Central College and repeated at the National Great Rivers Research & Education Center Field Station (Alton) for USDoL Women's Bureau. There was considerable interest in our new Find Your Green Job materials and the Green Career Interest Survey. "We use CIS constantly," said their career center director. "It makes a huge difference in students' lives. With our new energy programs, this green section makes it even more valuable." A Tazewell county EFE special populations coordinator said, "I don't know how you do it. CIS just keeps changing for the better year after year. This is great!"
- Presented at a conference of 40 school districts in Eastern Illinois Association of Special Education (EIASE) in Charleston. Attendees were excited about the potential of CIS to help them document progress for their Individualized Education Plans. "This is by far the most useful session all day." "This is really good material and the handout was exceptional." They liked the Summer Job Central brochures and the hints for helping students with special needs to enter the workforce instead of being part of the 80% of the disabled population that is unemployed but would prefer to work. They were copying extra sets of handouts to take back to colleagues at their schools.
- Presented via webinar at the Metropolitan Chicago Healthcare Council Nursing Leaders Summit: Updated group on supply-demand analysis for RNs and LPNs in the State and Northeastern Illinois.
- Every other week, staff conducts a presentation on labor market and career information options and resources to separating service people at Scott Air Force Base.
- Presented labor market and career information to the WIB 19 Board in Decatur. Covered TORQ, an overview of the local economy (including how the area has rebounded from the Great Recession), and an overview of the LMI page on our website.
- Presented "Overview of Central IL economy and Health Care = Critical Industry" to Springfield Works Committee at Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce offices.
- Presented two sessions of "Labor Market Information Resources for Programs of Study" at the 2010 Illinois Community College Board Forum for Excellence.
- Conducted CIS Plus and Test Prep demonstration to the Academy for Learning High School (60+ teachers/staff) in Dolton. (Special needs students.)
- Presented at the fourth annual Lake Land Energy Conference and highlighted the launch of Find Your Green Job that day. Response from a wide range of attendees (students, staff, and community leaders) was enthusiastic. Afterwards, met with the marketing team to discuss how to promote their green education programs, gave tips on attracting females to STEM careers.

#### **F. Conduct Special Studies and Economic Analyses.**

See descriptions of special studies conducted during PY10 in Section C above.