

Annual Performance Report, August 2010

New Mexico Department of Workforce Solutions Economic Research & Analysis Bureau

The following annual performance report describes program achievements to date for each planned activity identified in the Statement of Work Deliverables under the PY2009 ETA State/Local LMI Grant:

A. Accomplishments

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

ER&A recognizes the vital role of the Workforce Information Database (WIDb) in the dissemination of uniform workforce data. To ensure that New Mexico continues to comply with the guidelines issued by the Analyst Resource Center, our primary WIDb analyst stayed abreast of current best practices during this program year. ER&A has continued to update the WIDb with data required in the PY2009 grant application and with other data items deemed to be of significant benefit to data users. The 2.4 version of the WIDb is currently in use.

During this year, ER&A coordinated with GeoSolutions, a private vendor, to facilitate continued upgrade and maintenance of the state's LMI delivery system, called "LASER" (Labor Analysis, Statistics and Economic Research). Workforce Information Database data are available to support the Virtual One-Stop System (VOSS), referred to as the "New Mexico Workforce Connection," used by research staff as well as state and local WIBs. Enhancements were added to provide graphics and mapping capabilities using MS Silverlight. This improved the visual appearance and added a new dimension to data delivery. All core tables have been updated as required for PY2009. ER&A staff conducted training in both the VOSS and LASER systems to familiarize users of all levels with the data in the Workforce Information Database. Staff is working toward a fully integrated VOSS/LASER system, providing consolidation of IT efforts and cost savings.

2.) Produce and disseminate industry and occupational projections

This year, both long- and short-term industry and occupational projections were produced using the methodology, software tools, and guidelines developed by the Projections Workgroup and the Projections Managing Partnership. The staff member assigned to the projections program attended ETA-sponsored training. New publications highlighting the 2008-2018 projections have been produced and are available in printed format and in PDF files on the website. Long-term projections for the state's four workforce regions were not required by grant contract but were included to support the local WIBs. Statewide short-term occupational employment projections from 2008 to 2010 were completed and submitted prior to the deadline date. As with long-term projections, the

bureau expanded and improved short-term projections to include metropolitan statistical area and workforce investment area projections. As a result, short-term 2008-2010 projections by MSA and WIA were completed and published.

3.) Publish an annual economic analysis report for the Governor and the SWIB

The 2009 State of New Mexico Workforce Report was expanded from its previous format to include detailed regional data. The report was tailored to serve the needs of workforce development policymakers, including the Governor, legislators, the state WIB, local WIBs, and other partners in workforce development. This year's annual report included more data directly applicable to local workforce planners. Data included in the report were developed from a variety of sources, including US Census data, US Department of Education statistics, and other external credible sources of data. Profiles for each of New Mexico's 33 counties were also updated.

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

During this program year, a number of new or updated products were added to the bureau's page on the department's website. Products and reports produced under the US DOL ETA grant are published on the website to facilitate use by the SWIB and LWIBs, as well as other partners in workforce development. The products include both long-term and short-term industry and occupational projections for the state and for each of the New Mexico MSAs and WIAs. Other products posted on the Internet include special reports (such as the annual State of New Mexico Workforce Report), the monthly Labor Market Review, County Profiles, the Wage Estimates Delivery System, and the bureau's report of New Mexico Annual Social and Economic Indicators. A new feature this year is a podcast of the monthly press release.

5.) Partner and consult on a continuing basis with workforce investment boards and key talent development partners and stakeholders

The ER&A has been a close collaborator with the state's Green Jobs Cabinet and has supported efforts to understand the emerging green economy. ER&A has also collaborated with Native American tribal entities to provide information needed to promote on-reservation economic development. The state's WIRED leadership team has continued its collaboration with ER&A staff to maintain an up-to-date directory of businesses.

ER&A staff members continue to partner and consult with both staff and board members of WIBs to provide data support for strategic planning. ER&A staff supports a training mission to ensure that board members are trained in the use of workforce information and are conversant and knowledgeable about how to locate data needed for informed decision making and customer support. Additionally, data developed by ER&A are used to forecast local employment trends and to highlight occupations that offer workers jobs with higher than average wages and offer employers access to a skilled workforce.

ER&A's bureau chief makes semi-annual presentations to the state WIB as well as the regional WIBs.

ER&A is deeply involved with a project that will allow New Mexico's students to access a suite of educational and labor market resources on a single site that is supported by the state's Public Education Department and Higher Education Department. ER&A supports the long-term commitment to the future workforce needs of the state and provides direct and indirect support to the state's educational community. ER&A staff members serve on boards and provide guidance to educational planners to ensure that the projected needs of the state's economy are considered. Discussions are ongoing to develop an online electronic student management system, including career exploration, as an integral part of student educational decisions.

6.) Conduct special studies and economic analysis

The Economic Research & Analysis Bureau was awarded a State LMI Improvement Grant which would provide a source of baseline data of the current level of green jobs we have today. While the grant is not going to provide immediate relief for job seekers, it will have a two-fold impact. First, it will provide the necessary tools needed to quantify what green jobs we have in our local economy and what training programs support those jobs. Second, the grant will allow the state to locate workstations in public places where job seekers have access green-related and other labor market information important in their job search.

ER&A staff provided detailed analysis of proposed legislation to determine its impact on the state's economy. Studies of the projected regional industry and occupational growth, as well as analysis of regional wage information, were supported by data tools produced and maintained by ER&A.

ER&A staff supported the state's legislatively mandated Job Training Incentive Program in an advisory capacity with information on industry and occupational wage levels and forecasts. An ER&A staff member evaluates economic development proposals submitted to the state's Job Training Incentive Program to determine occupational classification and wages and serves as a member of the Job Training Incentive Program Board.

B. Customer Consultations

Customers frequently consult with ER&A to determine the impact of various business openings and closings. The bureau maintains good lines of informal contact with members of workforce boards, economic development organizations, and other community or business groups to facilitate the exchange of ideas and information. ER&A staff members make presentations of workforce information to WIBs, JSEC meetings, educators, professional organizations, and other business and community organizations. At these presentations, customers are urged to comment on the usefulness and quality of

the material produced by the department. Workshop comments and evaluations are used as the basis for changes to format and content of presentation. Workshop participants are also encouraged to evaluate new products as they are introduced to determine the effectiveness of new or changed material.

The Internet provides an opportunity for continuous consultation, evaluation, and feedback on various ER&A products and services. Data users who obtain access to ER&A products via electronic methods are encouraged to comment on the quality and usefulness of the data they obtain. The ER&A webmaster receives informal, unformatted feedback and evaluation of products and services on a daily basis.

C. Recommendations for Improvements or Changes to the Deliverables

The inclusion of census data, education data, and business data with more traditional workforce information has been well received by many customers. An integrated, holistic approach to data appears to provide a deeper insight into the nuances of the economy. Customers continue to voice the need for, and the value of, information that has been localized for their areas. Additional resources from the ETA would be beneficial and would allow state workforce agencies to produce new products and services for local data users.