

RHODE ISLAND DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND TRAINING
PY 2008 WORKFORCE INFORMATION CORE PRODUCTS AND SERVICES GRANT PERFORMANCE REPORT
July 1, 2008 - June 30, 2009

A. GRANT DELIVERABLES:

1. Continue to Populate the ALMIS Database with state data

Planned Activities:	Status/Accomplishments:
A. Populate the core tables of the most current version of the Workforce Information Database with the latest state data in accordance with guidelines issued by the Analyst Resource Center.	We are currently using version 2.3 of the Workforce Information Database. We plan to update to version 2.4 with the introduction of version 10.1 of our new Virtual One-Stop Operating System (VOS) from GeoSolutions in January 2010. We are dependent on our vendor's timetable for the completion of this conversion. We also sent our database person to the Analyst Resource Center Seminar held in October 2008 on <i>Transforming Information for the Future</i> .
B. Update licensing data files as required and submit to the National Crosswalk Service Center.	Licensing files were updated with 2008 data and sent to the National Crosswalk Service Center (NCSC) in July 2009.

2. Produce and disseminate industry and occupational employment projections

Planned Activities:	Status/Accomplishments:
Produce and disseminate short-term industry and occupational projections. Populate the ALMIS database with projections for the 2008 to 2010 period. Submit data as required by the Projections Managing Partnership.	The statewide 2008-2010 short-term projections were completed in June 2009 and the results were submitted to the Projections Management Partnership (PMP).

3. Publish an Economic Analysis Report for the Governor and the State Workforce Investment Board

Planned Activities:	Status/Accomplishments:
Publish an annual state economic analysis report to inform workforce development policy and investment determinations by the governor, the State Workforce Investment Board, the Local Workforce Investment Boards, and other partners. Include pertinent data from the state and other sources.	Staff researched data sources and assembled a variety of information on the RI economy, jobs and demographics for use by the workforce development system partners. Some of this information was provided to users separately throughout the year and was included in the annual report as well. The publication will be finalized by the end of September 2009. We delayed publication so that we could include the latest employment data and make it more useful for the Governor's Workforce Board as it begins its fall meeting schedule. The report will be distributed to users and sent to the regional office by the end of September 2009.

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

Planned Activities:	Status/Accomplishments:
A. Maintain the LMI web site and post all products, reports and information on the site.	LMI staff continued to update the LMI web site (www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi) with the latest workforce and economic information. All LMI publications were also made available for downloading from our web site. Links to other resources were updated during the PY.
B. Maintain and enhance the RI Research and Economic Database application.	We worked with our workforce partners during this PY to incorporate the RI RED application into the next One Stop Operating System for Rhode Island. This application is now called EmployRI (www.employri.org) and includes a beefed up version of our former RI RED application. LMI staff spent time helping to review proposals for the new system, selecting the vendor and implementing the new software during this PY. As a result of the new system, the number of jobs openings available was significantly expanded with almost four times the number of jobs now available for customer on-line searching. Reviews of the new application have been very positive.

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

Planned Activities:	Status/Accomplishments:
C. Continue to notify customers of new data and publications through our electronic <i>LMI Stat Track</i> service.	LMI staff continued this notification process throughout PY 2008. We currently have over 1,200 registered users for this service. We have received several positive feedback comments through this service when new products are provided to customers. Customers like the automatic notification process.

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

Planned Activities:	Status/Accomplishments:
A. Provide support to the state Workforce Investment Board (WIB) and Local WIBs to identify and supply needed information to support strategic planning for workforce investment and responding to changing economic conditions.	<p>LMI staff work on a continuing basis with staff of the Governor's Workforce Board (GWB) and our two Local Workforce Investment Boards in several areas:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. LMI staff also provided the GWB and the local WIBs with demographic and Labor market data for their annual plans. Similar data was provided to our Workforce Development Division for their annual plan and for the Department of Elderly Affairs for their annual plan. 2. The local WIBs were provided with information on growing and declining industries for development of their training plans. 3. LMI staff also provided the local Providence/Cranston WIB with information on green jobs in RI and an update on national efforts and informational sources in this area. We participated in several meetings of their Green Jobs Committee and are continuing participants. 4. LMI staff worked with our Governor's Workforce Board (State WIB) in reviewing grant applications for their Emerging Industries: Green Technologies RFP. We will work with this new Industry Partnership as they study Green Job issues and provide them with labor market information needed for their efforts. LMI was cited in the RFP as a necessary partner. 5. LMI participated in a regional consortium (New England, New York & New Jersey) to submit an application for a State Labor Market Improvement Grant to provide data and analysis to direct individuals to careers in the energy efficiency and renewable energy sectors (green jobs). The work on this grant would dovetail nicely with that enunciated in the State's RFP on Green Technologies. 6. LMI conducted a Prisoner Reentry Survey at the request of our Workforce Information Office during this PY. 7. LMI collaborated with the RI Department of Education and the Transcultural Community Health Initiative to conduct a Community Health Worker Demand survey financed in part by a grant (\$7,500) from the Casey Foundation. 8. LMI partnered with the Department of Human Services and the University of Rhode Island in a biennial Child Care Market Rate survey.

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

Planned Activities:	Status/Accomplishments:
B. Provide support to the State Task Force in using labor market information for measuring performance goals for the State's Unified Workforce Development Plan	LMI staff worked with the Unified Plan Task Force and provided input on the performance measures to be used in the State's Unified Workforce Development plan.
C. Provide presentations to various groups interested in labor market information to promote a better understanding of the RI economy.	<p>1. LMI Staff demonstrated the RI RED application to various groups in this PY: To Adult Education Dislocated Worker Job Counselors, partner organizations and Employer Services Unit staff in July 2008; and to the West Bay Collaborative students & instructors also in July 2008.</p> <p>2. LMI provided updated RI economic data to the Greater RI WIB at their request in October 2008.</p> <p>3. LMI staff made presentations on the RI economy, LMI material and the RI RED application to To Ocean State Employers Network in September 2008; To counselors at the Sherlock Center in September 2008 and again in April 2009; and to the Employer Tech Collective Transition Advisory Committee consisting of students, their families and school staff in November 2008.</p> <p>4. LMI staff did a presentation on the use of LMI data to approximately 300 students and teachers at a Career Fair in April 2009 at Warwick Veterans High School.</p>
D. Help implement the new Virtual One-Stop System (<i>EmployRI</i>) for our One-Stop Career Centers.	LMI Staff helped to test the new system and attended the kickoff event with the vendor and One-Stop Center staff. LMI has continued to help in the system's implementation and use.
E. Work with the State's Workforce Information Office to provide data for the funding formula for their annual WIA allocations.	LMI staff provided the Workforce Information Office with data on the insured unemployed, declining industries, labor force statistics, UI final payments and State ASU designations.
F. Activites with Other Partners and Stakeholders.	<p>1. A representative from LMI attended the kickoff meeting of the ETA Regional Recovery and Reemployment effort in Baltimore, MD in October 2008 and also attended the follow-up ETA Regional Recovery and Reemployment Forum in Boston in April 2009.</p> <p>2. The LMI Director attended the NASWA LMI Directors' meeting in October 2008 in Indianapolis, Indiana.</p> <p>3. RI sent a representative to the Census sponsored LED Annual Conference held in March 2009. RI LMI Staff participated in the Workforce3 One webinar on Local Employment Dynamics: On-the-Map Version 3.0 in September 2008 and invited representatives from the Governor's Workforce Board, the local WIBs, the Economic Development Corporation and other users to view the same webinar.</p>

6. Conduct special studies and analysis.

Conduct special state, local, or sub-state regional studies and economic analyses to provide information support for communities in economic transition, state and sub-state workforce development initiatives, and responses to major layoffs and disasters.

Planned Activities:	Status/Accomplishments:
A. Conduct a statewide Job Vacancy Survey	<p>1. Staff developed and conducted a Job Vacancy Survey for this program year. The first survey mailing was sent out in May 2009 with a second mailing in June of 2009. Follow-up calls began in July 2009. The Job Vacancy Survey results were published in September 2009.</p> <p>2. LMI Staff distributed its 2008 Statewide Job Vacancy report to various users in September 2008</p>

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6. Conduct special studies and analysis. (continued)	
Conduct special state, local, or sub-state regional studies and economic analyses to provide information support for communities in economic transition, state and sub-state workforce development initiatives, and responses to major layoffs and disasters.	
Planned Activities:	Status/Accomplishments:
B. Work with the RI Department of Education and the Transcultural Community Health Initiative to develop a Community Health Worker Survey.	LMI staff developed the survey form and conducted the Community Health Worker Survey in the spring of 2009. This survey was paid partly by a grant (\$7,000) received by the Department of Education from the Casey Foundation. A final draft of the report was submitted to the work group for review in June 2009.
Planned Activities:	Status/Accomplishments:
C. Conduct a Prisoner Reentry Survey for our Workforce Information Office.	During the past program year, LMI staff worked with our Workforce Information Office to develop a Prisoner Reentry Survey to determine the barriers to reemployment faced by those previously incarcerated and the willingness of employers to employ those individuals. The survey was conducted in early 2009 and a summary of the results was provided to the committee in the spring of 2009. A full publication is due out in the fall of 2009.
Planned Activities:	Status/Accomplishments:
D. Participate in work groups formed around various targeted industries and grant opportunities.	LMI staff participated in several partnerships with industry representatives to provide information about their industries for planning and grant opportunities. 1. LMI staff participated in several meetings of the Providence/Cranston WIB Green Jobs Committee to provide information and advice to the group on national efforts. 2. LMI staff worked with a consortium of New England States, New York and New Jersey in submitting a grant application for an LMI Improvement Grant focusing on Green Jobs in the renewable energy and energy efficiency industries in the region. LMI staff continued their working relationships with several of our partnerships during this PY. These included the Quality Partners nursing group, the Health Care Partnership Council and the RI Hospitality and Tourism Association.
Planned Activities:	Status/Accomplishments:
E. Continue publishing our monthly Employment Bulletin and the Governor's Labor Force Brief.	Employment Bulletins mailed monthly to about 1,100 individuals and businesses. The Governor's Labor Force Brief provided monthly to the Governor, his staff, his cabinet members and the RI Economic Policy Council.

B. Customer satisfaction efforts and feedback

We rely primarily on input we receive from various groups that we participate with during the year for information on their data needs and their reactions to products that we produce. We do occasionally use exit surveys for specific training, such as for our RI RED application. We also receive feedback from our customers on our products, especially those customers on our LMI Stat Track list. We have also benefited from the addition of a full-time Marketing/Communications Director for our department. This person has given LMI data and products more visibility with the media and this has resulted in many articles being published citing our reports and data throughout the program year.

We have received very positive comments on our web site, especially our interactive RI RED application, from many of our users. We continue to get requests for demonstrations of the application to various groups. We provided an overview of RI RED and our LMI web site to some of our One Stop Career Center staff that was well received. Some comments received:

- "I love the RIRE website. I sent the link to the group of people who were notified with me (as they eliminated my entire group there are quite a few of us). So far, I'm getting e-mails thanking me for sending it to them. They love it and say it is one of the best sites they have been to yet. It shows jobs that aren't advertised elsewhere."
- "RI RED is awesome!!!!!!!!!!!!. I am filing in at the Newport Reemployment office on Fridays. Since I haven't performed any Job Service functions in years, I have been directing customers to use the self assessment tool on the web. It has been an absolute success!!! As a matter of fact in 1 day, 3 customers actually went on interviews."

Our electronic notification, LMI Stat Track, that goes out to over 1,100 customers has received good reviews for keeping our customers informed when new products and information are available.

C. Recommendations for Improvements or Changes to the Suite of Core Products

No recommendations for changes at this time.