

# Workforce Data Quality Initiative

## *Grants to improve analysis of workforce program impacts*

The Workforce Data Quality Initiative funds will enable states to build or expand longitudinal databases of workforce data that also link to education data. States will use these longitudinal databases to conduct research and analysis aimed at pinpointing the effectiveness of employment and training programs to better inform workforce system customers. "These grants are an important part of the administration's efforts to increase the availability and use of high-quality data," said Secretary of Labor Hilda L. Solis. "By developing and improving databases, states will help those seeking training make better informed decisions, all while more clearly demonstrating the link between employment and education in the long-term success of workers." Click [here](#) for more information on the USDOL Press Release.

States meet monthly to discuss the progress of their grants. [Notes](#).

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### Workforce Data Quality Initiative Grant Awards

State	Agency	Award Amount (USD)
<a href="#">Florida</a>	Florida Agency for Workforce Innovation	1,000,000
<a href="#">Iowa</a>	Iowa Workforce Development	1,000,000
<a href="#">Louisiana</a>	Louisiana Workforce Commission	999,863
<a href="#">Maine</a>	Maine Department of Labor	1,000,000
<a href="#">Maryland</a>	State of Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation	1,000,000
<a href="#">Massachusetts</a>	Massachusetts Department of Workforce Development	1,000,000
<a href="#">Minnesota</a>	Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development	1,000,000
<a href="#">Missouri</a>	Missouri Department of Economic Development	890,000
<a href="#">North Dakota</a>	Job Service North Dakota	1,000,000
<a href="#">Ohio</a>	Ohio Department of Job and Family Services	1,000,000
<a href="#">South Carolina</a>	South Carolina Department of Employment and Workforce	289,417
<a href="#">Texas</a>	Texas Workforce Commission	997,014
<a href="#">Virginia</a>	Virginia Community College System	1,000,000

**US Department of Labor awards more than \$12 million for 13 states to build workforce databases**

*Grants to improve analysis of workforce program impacts*

**WASHINGTON** — The U.S. Department of Labor announced \$12.2 million to 13 states through the Workforce Data Quality Initiative. These funds will enable states to build or expand longitudinal databases of workforce data that also link to education data. States will use these longitudinal databases to conduct research and analysis aimed at pinpointing the effectiveness of employment and training programs to better inform workforce system customers.

"These grants are an important part of the administration's efforts to increase the availability and use of high-quality data," said Secretary of Labor Hilda L. Solis. "By developing and improving databases, states will help those seeking training make better informed decisions, all while more clearly demonstrating the link between employment and education in the long-term success of workers."

States will achieve multiple goals during the three-year grant period. Among these are developing or improving state workforce longitudinal data systems with individual-level information; enabling workforce data to be matched with education data to create longitudinal data systems; improving the quality and breadth of the data in the workforce data systems; using longitudinal data to provide useful information about program operations; analyzing the performance of education and training programs; and providing user-friendly information to consumers to help them select the training and education programs that best suit their needs.

Funding will be used by 11 states to expand and improve linkages between education and employment in existing longitudinal databases. These include Florida, Iowa, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Missouri, North Dakota, Ohio, South Carolina, Texas and Virginia. Two additional states, Louisiana and Minnesota, will develop and implement new systems.

This grant opportunity stems from the administration's focus on access to high-quality data and is a sister initiative to the U.S. Department of Education's Statewide Longitudinal Data Systems project that is designed build longitudinal education databases.

## WDQI Meeting Notes

WDQI – Introductory Meeting Minutes Date: 16 December 2010 Time: 1430 EST

Attendees: Florida, Iowa, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Missouri, North Dakota, Ohio, South Carolina, Texas, Virginia

1. Introductions – states, federal project officers (FPOs), and national office.
2. States would like to know who their FPOs are and what region they are a part of. This is a break down of States and their FPOs. I have attached a region/state map to the email.

State	Agency	Award Amount (USD)	FPO
Florida	Florida Agency for Workforce Innovation	1,000,000	Brad Sickles
Iowa	Iowa Workforce Development	1,000,000	Jean Grochowski
Louisiana	Louisiana Workforce Commission	999,863	Edgar Garcia (David Lipnicky – backup)
Maine	Maine Department of Labor	1,000,000	Myriam Milfort
Maryland	State of Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation	1,000,000	Jeff Gabriel
Massachusetts	Massachusetts Department of Workforce Development	1,000,000	Myriam Milfort
Minnesota	Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development	1,000,000	Jean Grochowski
Missouri	Missouri Department of Economic Development	890,000	Jean Grochowski
North Dakota	Job Service North Dakota	1,000,000	David Lipnicky (Edgar Garcia – backup)
Ohio	Ohio Department of Job and Family Services	1,000,000	Jean Grochowski
South Carolina	South Carolina Department of Employment and Workforce	289,417	Brad Sickles
Texas	Texas Workforce Commission	997,014	David Lipnicky (Edgar Garcia – backup)
Virginia	Virginia Community College System	1,000,000	Tobby Willis

3. Technical Assistance will be contracted out. As soon as the contract is awarded, we will let everyone know.
4. A website and Community of Practice will be established to help grantees stay in contact with one another, provide immediate access to information, and share best practices.
5. Issues regarding FERPA and the use of social security numbers as a key for data element linkages will be researched by the national office.

6. FPOs will be the direct contact for states.
7. Bi-monthly conference calls will be conducted to ensure all states are on track with grant expectations.

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Grant Recipient Summaries

**Florida**

**Grantee:** Florida Agency for Workforce Innovation

**Award Amount:** \$1,000,000

**Proposed Activities:**

The Workforce Data Quality Initiative will be used to further expand Florida's comprehensive longitudinal database through the integration of additional data elements. The Florida Education and Training Placement Program was established through legislation and piloted in 1985. FETPIP contains workforce, public and private education, and training program provider information. Florida state law mandates that all workforce and education entities utilize the system. Florida has agreements with various state agencies which provide for a more robust array of data. Florida tracks a wide range of data in addition to Unemployment Insurance, Wagner-Peyser, Trade Adjustment Assistance, and Dislocated Workers data. This includes education, food stamp and public assistance, incarceration and community release, federal employee, U.S. Postal Service employee, and out of state employment data. Grant funding will allow for the creation of two new web portals: "New Expanded Supply and Demand Model" and "Green Training Opportunities in Florida." In addition, funding will allow further data integration with Florida's Department of Education.

**Contact:**

Ms. Rebecca Rust, Process Manager  
Florida Agency for Workforce Innovation  
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Tallahassee, FL 32399  
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850-245-7257

**Iowa**

**Grantee:** Iowa Workforce Development

**Award Amount:** \$1,000,000

**Proposed Activities:**

The Workforce Data Quality Initiative will be utilized by the Iowa Workforce Development Department to work in conjunction with the Iowa Department of Education's State Longitudinal Data System. Grant monies will allow Iowa to further expand the *Return on Investment* project with a broader scope of partners. In addition to agencies within the state of Iowa, a multi-state data sharing agreement has been established with Illinois, Nebraska, and South Dakota. These partnerships allow the state to provide a starter set of data with thirty separate data elements – collecting not only workforce data, but also information from twenty-two other agencies. These linkages will provide a rich data set for research analysis.

**Contact:**

Dr. Jude Igbokwe, Division Administrator  
Labor Market Information Director  
Iowa Department of Workforce Development  
1000 East Grand Avenue  
Des Moines, IA 50319  
jude.igbokwe@iwd.iowa.gov  
515-281-5193

## **Louisiana**

**Grantee:** Louisiana Workforce Commission

**Award Amount:** \$999,863

**Grantee:** Louisiana Workforce Commission

**Proposed Activities:**

Louisiana will utilize the PY2010 Workforce Data Quality Initiative as a means of improving public services through creation of the state's first longitudinal database for workforce data. Grant funding will enhance and improve the state's ability to plan, monitor and further research various services within the workforce and educational systems. Data sets will contain information from several programs including: Workforce Investment Act; Wagner-Peyser; Trade Adjustment Assistance; and Louisiana Job Employment Training. In addition to workforce programs, data from Temporary Assistance for Needy Families and the Federal Employee Data Exchange System will also be linked. Merging this information with education data will provide first time access to more comprehensive programmatic data. The Louisiana Workforce Commission will rely on its longstanding partnership with Louisiana State University to create, maintain, and ensure security for this project.

**Contact:**

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Louisiana Workforce Commission  
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rjindal@lwc.la.gov  
225-342-3222

## **Maine**

**Grantee:** Maine Department of Labor

**Award Amount:** \$1,000,000

### **Proposed Activities**

The Maine Department of Labor will improve upon a partially developed workforce longitudinal data system. In conjunction with the Maine Department of Education, the statewide longitudinal database system will be expanded. The Maine Department of Education has collected three years of educational data at this point in time, and has created a link to workforce data. In addition, a consortium of partnerships has been forged with various entities allowing a vast array of linkages to be created. In addition to workforce and educational data, the Department of Health and Human Services, Department of Economic and Community Development, and Maine State Planning Office will also contribute data elements for linkages. The project will create more comprehensive data which will then be utilized by policy makers as tool to make effective decisions on economic development.

### **Contact:**

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Maine Department of Labor  
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Augusta, ME 04333  
john.dorrer@maine.gov  
207-621-5179

## **Maryland**

**Grantee:** State of Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation

**Award Amount:** \$1,000,000

### **Proposed Activities**

The Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation, Division of Workforce Development and Adult Learning will utilize the Workforce Data Quality Initiative in partnership with the University of Baltimore's Jacob France Institute as a means of achieving four target objectives: expanding and extending current systems which have been in progress; improving existing linkages with the educational system; completing and distributing extensive longitudinal data; and developing user-friendly platforms as a means of generating performance data on both educational and workforce programs.

### **Contact:**

Ms. Paulette Francois, Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation

State of Maryland

1100 North Eutaw Street, Room 616

Baltimore, MD 21201

410-767-3011

**Massachusetts**

**Award Amount:** \$1,000,000

**Grantee:** Massachusetts Department of Workforce Development

**Proposed Activities**

Massachusetts will establish a new longitudinal database consisting of data elements from unemployment and workforce programs operating under the administration of the Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development. The Massachusetts One-Stop Employment System currently tracks participant and service activities for a number of employment and social service programs. These data sets will allow for the creation of a comprehensive longitudinal database containing both workforce and educational program data. Data collected from this initiative will be used to analyze the effectiveness of current initiatives, evaluate funding patterns, and strengthen state workforce programs.

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Massachusetts Department of Workforce Development  
Division of Career Services  
19 Staniford Street  
Boston, MA 02114  
mboyle@detma.org  
617-626-5721

## **Minnesota**

**Grantee:** Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development

**Award Amount:** \$1,000,000

### **Proposed Activities**

The Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development will utilize funding as a means of creating a longitudinal database with the collaboration of several partners including but not limited to: the Minnesota Office of Higher Education, Minnesota Department of Education, and Minnesota State Colleges and Universities. Data from the Unemployment Insurance, WIA Title I, Trade Adjustment Assistance, and Wagner-Peyser programs will be linked to post-secondary education, Adult Basic Education, and Minnesota Family Investment program data. In addition, the database will allow for performance evaluation of both education and employment programs.

### **Contact:**

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St. Paul, MN 55101  
Steve.hine@state.mn.us  
651-259-7396

## Missouri

Comment [n1]:

**Grantee:** Missouri Department of Economic Development

**Award Amount:** \$890,000

### **Proposed Activities**

The State of Missouri will create a longitudinal database which links the various employment service programs currently offered in the state. Grant monies from the Workforce Data Quality Initiative will allow Missouri to establish a comprehensive tracking system for individuals as they navigate various workforce programs. This tracking system will provide the data elements which will comprise the longitudinal database. Missouri's Division of Workforce Development in the Department of Economic Development will construct a system which establishes links between educational data, workforce outcome measures, social service support, adult training programs, and job search support. Data will be used to determine program efficiency and participant experiences.

### **Contact:**

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Missouri Department of Economic Development  
Division of Workforce Development  
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Jefferson City, MO 65102  
Julie.gibson@ded.mo.gov  
573-751-3349

## **North Dakota**

**Grantee:** Job Service North Dakota

**Award Amount:** \$1,000,000

**Proposed Activities:**

North Dakota will utilize the Workforce Data Quality Initiative to focus on three critical objectives: Creating a data warehouse and upgrading current reporting technologies; improving the quality of workforce data and expanding the capacity to link education and workforce data; and demonstrating the value of producing more extensive research. Grant funding will allow North Dakota to improve upon the partial system the state currently has in place. Once linkages between programs have been established, the state will utilize the database to create four research reports: an evaluation of workforce program outcomes; an analysis of the effectiveness of education and training programs used by UI claimants; an analysis of current job seekers compared to current economic opportunities; and comparative studies of employment outcomes among high school dropouts and graduates.

**Contact:**

Mr. Kevin Marchus, Director, Planning and Support Area

Jobs Service North Dakota

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Bismarck, ND 58506

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701-328-3045

## **Ohio**

**Grantee:** Ohio Department of Job and Family Services

**Award Amount:** \$1,000,000

**Proposed Activities:**

Ohio has maintained a longitudinal database, managed by both the Department of Education and the Board of Regents for the last ten years. The Workforce Data Quality Initiative will allow the two programs to merge into one comprehensive system. This enhanced linkage will provide the state with the ability to construct higher quality measures for workforce and education data. It will also allow for a better understanding of the impact of state and federal programs, and the facilitation of comprehensive workforce and education research.

Ohio will use this information as a means of understanding shortcomings in workforce and educational systems which have lead to a lagging economy and shortage of skilled workers. Partnerships with other agencies, including the Ohio Department of Mental Health and the Department of Public Safety, as well as with the educational system, will enhance the quality of the data collected.

**Contact:**

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Keith.ewald@jfs.ohio.gov  
614-466-9820

## **South Carolina**

**Grantee:** South Carolina Department of Employment and Workforce

**Award Amount:** \$289,417

### **Proposed Activities**

South Carolina will utilize Workforce Data Quality Initiative funding to accomplish the following four goals: Establish a longitudinal database with linkages between Wagner-Peyser, Trade Adjustment Assistance, Workforce Investment Act, and Unemployment Insurance; create a linkage with existing educational data at the South Carolina Office of Research and Statistics, containing information from the Departments of Education, Social Services, and Vocational Rehabilitation; create more sophisticated interface which allow users to more efficiently access and manipulate data; utilize research and data to advise policy makers and constituents on the effectiveness of current programming.

South Carolina is also working in a multi-state consortium (including North Carolina, Georgia, and Tennessee) to gather requirements for a new Unemployment Insurance system. The new system will provide better system efficiency, further maximizing the benefits of the longitudinal database.

### **Contact:**

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**Texas**

**Award Amount:** \$997,014

**Grantee:** Texas Workforce Commission

**Proposed Activities**

Through a new partnership with the University of Texas at Austin's Ray Marshall Center, the state of Texas will utilize Workforce Data Quality Initiative grant funding to expand and improve upon an already existing longitudinal database. Texas will pilot testing processes for linkages between educational and workforce data; provide access to linked data as a means to create an enhanced automated follow-up evaluation system, which has been mandated by Texas Senate Bill 281; and address barriers which exist between the education and workforce data systems. Texas will then utilize this data to analyze programs and outcomes as a means of providing continuous program improvement.

**Contact:**

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Texas Workforce Commission  
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512-463-1473

## **Virginia**

**Grantee:** Virginia Community College System

**Award Amount:** \$1,000,000

### **Proposed Activities**

Virginia will establish the first longitudinal database containing workforce and education data linkages in the state. The Virginia Community College System's Workforce Development Services division manages Title I WIA funding and coordinates system-wide functions for the state's twenty-three community colleges. The unique combination of workforce and educational data currently managed in one location will contribute to the quality of the new database. Partnering with universities will also provide additional subject matter expertise. Additional partnerships with the Department of Correctional Education, Virginia Department for the Aging, and the Department for the Blind and Vision Impaired will create data on a variety of populations being serviced through the state's workforce and education programs.

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