



LOUISIANA WORKS
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Kathleen Babineaux Blanco
Governor

John Warner Smith
Secretary

OFFICE OF WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

TO: Gene Tichenor, Administrator
Office of Workforce Investment

FROM: Gregory Declouet, Director of Field Operations

SUBJECT: State Specific Performance Report

DATE: September 28, 2006

Please find enclosed, the State of Louisiana's PY 2005 Reemployment Services Report.

Thank you,

Gregory Declouet, Director
Workforce Development Field Operations

GD/tm

enclosure

REEMPLOYMENT SERVICES PERFORMANCE REPORT

STATE: LOUISIANA

DATE: 9/28/06

STATE SPECIFIC PERFORMANCE REPORT (Add additional sheets if necessary.)

Describe activities and an overview of how the activities were accomplished. Include milestones, and positive outcomes achieved. Compare accomplishment of planned performance goals with the attainment of the performance indicators identified by the State in the annual plan.

OVERVIEW – Report Period PY 2005

During the 2005 Program Year, most LDOL services to UI claimants were delivered to persons affected by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. 30% of the Louisiana economy was negatively affected by the two storms. For the first two months after the storms, almost all LDOL services were directed toward processing the new claims. The devastation from the hurricanes affected the delivery of services to claimants and the Louisiana job market and unemployment rate for the remainder of the program year. LDOL suffered the loss of workers during the storms, causing some offices to be understaffed. Because of budget shortfalls and staffing limitations, few of those workers were replaced. Many claimants remained out of state through the duration of the program year. LDOL was able to provide few reemployment services to those individuals.

Although, the New Orleans and the southwest regions of the state began recovery, many businesses have not reopened, have relocated or have expressed they are permanently closed for business. Some industries, such as shipyards, chemical processing and oil, were able to recover quickly. Still even those industries have numerous job openings because of skilled workers dislocated from the area.

Beginning in late October 2005, LDOL began a campaign to refer all claimants to at least one job upon visiting any office. This continued through June 2006. During June 2006, LDOL reorganized its public services. The local offices are now totally integrated with its WIA and other partners, which together are completely dedicated to delivering job referral and training services and employer services. All UI claims are now handled through call centers or over the Internet. UI reports are submitted to the local offices, which call in claimants for job placement and training services.

Assigned staff provided early intervention services after a claim is filed, augmented by follow-on services as needed at the eligibility review. Staff reviewed the individual claimant's cases to shorten the eligibility review cycle, as appropriate to the individual customer and the local labor market.

All claimants received full services on the initial visit to the Career Resource Center; where assigned staff utilized all services of the agency and its partners in order to positively affect the duration of claiming. Claimants were registered and received orientation that included introduction to the career/resource center. Afterwards, the claimants were offered resume preparation to establish an on-line resume. Claimants also received preliminary assessments then directed to intensive services such as workshops or training, as needed and also referred on any available job for which they qualified.

When more intensive, or longer-term, services were indicated, the claimant was scheduled for the services provision. Those that failed to report, or refused to report, were reported to UI for fact-finding and adjudication of the issue.

Proposed usage of the funds was to result in early intervention services to the selected group of those approaching the end of their benefits, shortening the duration of unemployment.

Positive Outcomes Achieved for PY 2005 Performance

Utilizing staff made available under this Federally-funded reemployment initiative, in addition to staff separately funded by Louisiana for reemployment assistance purposes and the normal services provided through the One-stop system, the average weeks claimed from July 1, 2005 through June 30, 2006 increased from 16 weeks to 18.7 weeks, an increase from the previous 12-month period, based upon the seven months for which reliable average duration information is available for PY 2005.

Reemployment services and rapid response services were also provided to 195 businesses reporting major layoffs (a 12% decrease from PY 2004), resulting in 14,052 dislocated workers (a 4% increase from PY 2004). During PY 2005, the Louisiana unemployment rate fluctuated from a high of 11.8% in September, immediately after the two storms, to 5.8% in June 2006, a slight increase from the rate in the same period of PY 2004.