Workforce Development in Rural Areas: Changes in Access, Service Delivery and Partnerships

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Workforce Development in Rural Areas

- Study carried out 8/04-5/05
- Consisted of:
  - Qualitative 5-day site visits to five rural LWIAs
  - Quantitative & geospatial analysis of nationwide network of local offices at three time periods
  - Literature review
  - Final report (including profiles of the five LWIAs)
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• Qualitative site visits to rural LWIAs:
  – North Central PA  – SE GA  – Northwest IA
  – Northern NM  – Linn, Benton, Lincoln OR

• Quantitative/geospatial analysis
  – Analysis and mapping of national workforce access points in 1979, 1999, 2004
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• Changes to Networks 1979-2004
  – Overall population growth and “graying” of non-metro areas
  – Major economic transformation
  – Number of access remained about the same between 1979 and 2004
    • Access points fell between 1979 and 1999; then rebounded from 1999 to 2004
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• Service Delivery and Accessibility
  – Major access strategy is networks of One-Stop access points
    • 6 types of access points ranging from comprehensive to computer-only
  – Other strategies included marketing, transportation assistance, Internet services, phone services, itinerant staff
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• Rural One-Stop Partnerships
  – Partnerships critical in rural areas
  – Relatively few key One-Stop partners
    • Limited role of faith-based provides
    • CBO roles are diverse
  – Informal coordination between partners
  – Limited resources make cost-sharing challenging
  – Close relationships between partners can have beneficial or detrimental effects on rural partnerships
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