

**Employment Service Cost Reimbursable Grant  
One-Stop Labor Market Information Plan  
Alaska -- Program Year 2002  
(July 1, 2002 – June 30, 2003)**

**SECTION A: DESCRIPTION OF THE STATEWIDE EMPLOYMENT STATISTICS SYSTEM**

The Research & Analysis Section (R&A) of the Alaska Department of Labor & Workforce Development (DLWD) is the entity designated by the Governor to perform the employment statistics functions funded through Section 309 of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998. R&A's employment statistics vision is to provide quality information that Alaskans can easily access and use to make informed choices.

In fulfilling its mission to provide timely and accurate information about the labor market, R&A both produces and disseminates a wide range of employment statistics. The Workforce Information grant's core products, combined with the US Bureau of Labor Statistics state/federal cooperative programs, are the foundation of Alaska's employment statistics system.

**Strategy for consulting with primary customers**

R&A maintains strong relationships with the statewide, Anchorage and Balance of State Workforce Investment Boards (WIBs), regularly consulting with WIB staff on the development and use of employment statistics products and services. During the upcoming program year, R&A will build on these relationships by attending all of the scheduled meetings, conducting WIB-requested analyses, participating on subcommittees when requested, and conducting information presentations to the committees.

Feedback from other major customer groups, such as the business community and individuals, will be solicited through informal discussions. Where possible, customer feedback will be translated into system improvements and enhancements.

**Workforce information delivery strategy**

Alaska's employment statistics system comprises multiple delivery systems and products. Because the needs of our customer groups are diverse, the focus and presentation of our products and services vary. For example, the *Workforce Info* delivery system, Alaska's website, reaches a broad audience of users including employers, policymakers, job seekers and researchers. Alaska's career information delivery system, *AKCIS*, has a narrower focus, presenting employment and career statistics in a format easily accessible to career seeking youth and adults.

## **Support for Alaska's WIA – Wagner Peyser Five-Year Plan**

Alaska's Unified Plan<sup>1</sup> focuses on "building connections that put Alaskans into good jobs." Timely and state-specific employment statistics are key elements of the Plan. The six primary workforce development goals of the Unified Plan are noted below, including examples of support provided by Alaska's employment statistics system.

- *Strengthen the involvement of business, industry, and economic development to build Alaska's workforce:* R&A produces industry- and/or occupation-specific products specifically tailored to the needs of Alaska's industry career consortia (IT, Healthcare, and process industries).
- *Ensure access to quality employment education, training and employment services statewide, particularly to rural areas and for the economically disadvantaged:* Each of Alaska's One-Stop resource rooms is equipped with multiple employment statistics delivery systems including the *Workforce Info* web site and AKCIS.
- *Evaluate programs of the workforce investment system to optimize customer employability:* Through the use of Alaska's enhanced wage record system, R&A evaluates employment training program performance.
- *Advocate for Alaska's human resource investment programs and promote continuous improvement:* R&A promotes workforce development system continuous improvement through training program evaluation.
- *Promote the full integration of Alaskans with disabilities into all aspects of the workforce development system to put people with disabilities into good jobs:* R&A works with the DLWD's Division of Vocational Rehabilitation to ensure that Alaskans with disabilities have access to and an understanding of employment statistics and career information.
- *Strengthen the involvement and ability of Alaska's education system to develop Alaska's workforce:* In cooperation with the University of Oregon, R&A produces Alaska's career information delivery system (AKCIS). AKCIS assists students in exploring and understanding the world of work, and making the connection between education and employment. AKCIS is available in the One-Stop resource rooms and in most of Alaska's school districts.

## **Delivery of LMI through the states one-stop delivery System**

Labor market information is delivered primarily through electronic delivery systems One-Stop office resource rooms, with support from local staff. R&A provides training to One-Stop office staff on how to access and use the electronic delivery systems available, as well as a basic understanding of the information presented.

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<sup>1</sup> For State Unified Plans Submitted under Section 501 of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998, State of Alaska, for the period of June 2000 to June 2005

**SECTION B: DESCRIPTION OF THE PRODUCTS AND SERVICES TO BE PROVIDED WITH THESE FUNDS**

During Program Year 2002, Alaska will provide the following core products and services:

**1) Continue to populate the ALMIS Database with State data**

Principal Customers: LMI system developers and technicians

Focus: Correcting data gaps, One-Stop service delivery and system development

Consultation with WIBs: Not applicable

WIA Five-Year Plan Support: The delivery of timely and state-specific labor market information is a key component of Alaska’s statewide plan.

Outcome: Access to Alaska workforce information will be facilitated by housing the data in a standardized database. Outcome measurement will include an increase in the number of systems accessing/distributing Alaska’s ALMIS data.

<b>PY02 Milestones</b>	<b>Activity Description</b>	<b>Comp. Date</b>
Install/implement the most current version of the ALMIS database	Alaska is currently using ALMIS v. 2.2. Updates will be installed as they become available.	Ongoing
Populate all required ALMIS tables	Alaska will populate all ALMIS core tables.	Ongoing
Populate ALMIS occupational licensing tables	Occupational licensing data will be collected and housed in the ALMIS database and coded to O-NET.	By 3/30/03
Transmit licensing data to ETA designee	Licensing data will be transmitted to the Crosswalk Data Center for inclusion in ACINet.	By 4/20/03

**Estimated Cost: \$39,000**

**2) Produce and disseminate long-term industry and occupational employment projections**

During Program Year 2002, Alaska will complete the long-term, 2000-2010, occupational projections. Due to the small labor market size, geographic isolation, and sensitivity to non-economic events of Alaska’s economy no long-term sub-state occupational projections will be produced at this time. (The 2000-2010 industry projections, both statewide and sub-state, were completed in PY01.)

Principal Customers: Alaska’s Workforce Investment Boards, One-Stop partner agencies, job seekers, vocational education planners and administrators, university planners and administrators, career counselors and students

Focus: Data analysis, One-Stop service delivery and system development

Consultation with WIBs: The results of the forecast will be disseminated to the statewide, Anchorage/Matsu and Balance of State WIBs.

WIA Five-Year Plan Support: The theme of Alaska’s unified plan, “building connections that put Alaskans into good jobs,” requires timely industry and occupational forecasts.

Outcome: The career planning and policymaking processes will be facilitated through the production and distribution of employment forecasts. Outcome measurement will be based on an increase in data users as measured by system usage statistics.

PY02 Milestones	Activity Description	Comp. Date
Complete 2000-2010 statewide and sub-state industry projections	Using the methodology, software tools and guidelines developed by the Long-term Projections Consortium, Alaska will produce statewide and Anchorage/Matsu industry projections. (SIC-based historical will be used)	PY01
Complete 2000-2010 statewide occupational projections	Using the methodology, software tools and guidelines developed by the Micro-Matrix User Group, Alaska will produce statewide occupational projections. Sub-state occupational projections will not be produced due to small labor market size, geographic isolation and sensitivity to non-economic events.	By 1/31/03
Populate the ALMIS Database with projections data and submit industry and occupational data for public dissemination	Alaska will populate the ALMIS industry and occupational projections tables and disseminate the data to the public through the WI system and website, AKCIS, published articles and presentations.	By 6/30/03
Maintain/enhance long-term industry forecasting model	Staff will maintain and enhance the long-term industry-forecasting model throughout the program year.	Ongoing

**Estimated Cost: \$58,000**

**3) Produce and disseminate short-term industry and occupational employment projections**

Alaska did not produce a short-term, 2001-2003, occupational projection in PY01. For analysis of short-term occupational dynamics, Alaska has used its quarterly Occupational Database. Analysis of new hire trends by industry and occupation are published in *ALASKA ECONOMIC TRENDS*.

During Program Year 2002, Alaska will not be able to complete the short-term, 2002-2004, occupational projections. Short-term statewide occupational projections are waiting sufficient NAICS based OES sample data and conversion of the EDS and Micro-Matrix systems to NAICS. Due to the small labor market size, geographic isolation, and sensitivity to non-economic events of Alaska’s economy no short-term sub-state occupational projections will be produced at this time.

Principal Customers: Alaska’s Workforce Investment Boards, One-Stop partner agencies, job seekers, vocational education planners and administrators, university planners and administrators, career counselors and students

Focus: Data analysis, One-Stop service delivery and system development

Consultation with WIBs: The results of the projections will be disseminated to the statewide, Anchorage/Matsu and Balance of State WIBs.

WIA Five-Year Plan Support: The theme of Alaska’s unified plan, “building connections that put Alaskans into good jobs,” requires timely employment forecasts.

Outcome: The career planning and policymaking processes will be facilitated through the production and distribution of employment forecasts. Outcome measurement will be based on an increase in data users as measured by system usage statistics.

<b>PY02 Milestones</b>	<b>Activity Description</b>	<b>Comp. Date</b>
Produce short-term statewide and sub-state industry projections 2001 – 2003	2001-2003 industry projections, using SIC, were published in May 2002. These data have been loaded into ALMIS and have been distributed through Alaska’s web site.	PY01
Produce short-term statewide and sub-state occupational projections 2001 – 2003	Short-term occupational projections were not published in PY01. Further investigation of the statistical reliability of short-term occupational projections for Alaska’s economy will be investigated in PY03. Analysis of new hires was published March 2002.	NA
Produce short-term statewide industry projections 2002 – 2004	Using the Short-term Forecasts Consortium methodology, Alaska will produce statewide 2002 – 2004 (same quarter) industry projections. The results will be compared with the short-term industry projections produced using the Forecast Pro commercial software. <sup>2</sup> (NAICS-based historical data will be used)	By 6/30/03
Produce short-term sub-state industry projections 2002 – 2004	Alaska will produce short-term sub-state forecasts using commercial forecasting software. <sup>2</sup> (NAICS-based historical data will be used)	By 6/30/03
Short-term statewide occupational projections 2002 – 2004.	Short-term occupational projections are waiting sufficient NAICS based OES sample data and conversion of the EDS and Micro-Matrix systems to NAICS. Analysis of new hires by industry and occupation published January 2003.	NA
Short-term sub-state occupational projections 2002 – 2004.	Sub-state occupational projections will not be produced due to small labor market size, geographic isolation and sensitivity to non-economic events.	NA

**Estimated Cost: \$43,082**

**4) Provide occupational and career information products for public use**

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<sup>2</sup> Alaska has produced short-term industry forecasts using commercial forecasting software for over 20 years (at both the statewide and sub-state levels). These forecasts have been extremely accurate and the results have been widely used by policymakers and researchers.

Principal Customers: Alaska’s Workforce Investment Boards, One-Stop partner agencies, job seekers, vocational education planners and administrators, university planners and administrators, career counselors and students

Focus: Data analysis, One-Stop service delivery and system development

Consultation with WIBs: Alaska’s WIBs are encouraged to contact R&A throughout the year as data needs arise. Many of the PY02 occupational products/services will be developed at the direct request of the WIBs.

WIA Five-Year Plan Support: The successful implementation of Alaska’s unified plan is dependent on occupational and career information products and services.

Outcome: The career planning and policymaking processes will be facilitated through the production and distribution of occupational information products and services. Outcome measurement will be based on an increase in both the number of occupational analysis products produced and the number of product users (as measured by system usage statistics or presentation attendees).

PY02 Milestones	Activity Description	Comp. Date
Expand the use of O*NET skills data	Incorporate O*NET skills data into occupational products, including <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Workforce Informer</li> <li>• Alaska’s career information delivery system (AKCIS)</li> </ul>	Ongoing
Produce occupational products in direct support of the WIBs	Products will include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• identifying “good jobs,”</li> <li>• ranking vocational education occupations based on future employment opportunity, average wage, nonresident penetration,</li> <li>• determining the percentage of workers nearing retirement age,</li> <li>• analyzing youth employment patterns and job opportunities,</li> <li>• analyzing wage records to determine hires and separations,</li> <li>• assessing long-term employment patterns of particular occupational groups.</li> </ul>	6/30/03
Develop customer-focused occupational and career information	Alaska continues to develop and disseminate customer-focused occupational and career information products. Examples include the Alaska Career Information System (AKCIS), the web-based Occupational Table, and monthly occupational profiles in the WI delivery system.	Ongoing

**Estimated Cost: \$46,000**

**5) Provide an employer name and address list that can be accessed by the public**

Principal Customers: Alaska’s Workforce Investment Boards, One-Stop partner agencies, job seekers, vocational education planners and administrators, university planners and administrators, career counselors and students

Focus: Correcting data gaps, One-Stop service delivery and system development

Consultation with WIBs: The employer name/address functions of Alaska’s website will be demonstrated at Alaska’s annual WIA conference. WIB staff will be individually introduced to the function throughout the year on an as-needed basis.

WIA Five-Year Plan Support: The successful implementation of Alaska’s unified plan is dependent on timely, state-specific workforce information products and services.

Outcome: Both the labor exchange function and career planning processes will be enhanced through an easily accessed employer name and address list. Outcome measurement will be based on an increase in data users as measured by system usage statistics.

PY02 Milestones	Activity Description	Comp. Date
Develop an application allowing access to an employer name/address list	Alaska's Workforce Informer delivery system contains two employer name and address files -- InfoUSA and a downloadable database based on Alaska’s ES202 data. Both of these datasets are accessible through Alaska’s website and are updated as new data become available.	10/01/02

**Estimated Cost: \$13,000**

**6) Provide information and support to Workforce Investment Boards and produce other State information products and services**

Principal Customers: Alaska’s Workforce Investment Boards, One-Stop partner agencies, job seekers, vocational education planners and administrators, university planners and administrators, career counselors and students

Focus: One-Stop service delivery and system development

Consultation with WIBs: With the election of a new administration, the Alaska Workforce Investment Board is in the process of being reconstituted. The Board’s staff has been replaced, and R&A has begun working with the new personnel. When the new board is appointed, R&A will seek input from the board on how best to support its information needs.

WIA Five-Year Plan Support: The successful implementation of Alaska’s unified plan is dependent on timely and state-specific labor market information.

Outcome: Employment and training policy decisions will be consistent with labor market needs as state policy makers have access to timely and accurate information. Outcome measurement will be based on an increase in both the number of WIB-requested products/services produced and the number of product users (as measured by system usage statistics or presentation attendees).

PY02 Milestones	Activity Description	Comp. Date
Ensure that R&A’s workforce	R&A will solicit WIB feedback through meetings, presentations	Ongoing

information products meet the needs of Alaska's WIBs	and informal discussions.	
Provide information and support to Alaska WIBs	Products will include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Creating thematic maps for inclusion of labor market characteristics for inclusion in articles and reports</li> <li>• Conducting presentations on topics such as industry employment, demographics or workforce needs</li> <li>• Prepare funding allocation formulas for distribution WIA funds at the sub-state level</li> <li>• Assist WIB staff in responding to ad hoc requests for information from the board</li> </ul>	Ongoing

**Estimated Cost: \$49,000**

### 7) Improve and deploy electronic state workforce information delivery systems

Principal Customers: Alaska's Workforce Investment Boards, One-Stop partner agencies, job seekers, vocational education planners and administrators, university planners and administrators, career counselors and students

Focus: One-Stop service delivery and system development

Consultation with WIBs: R&A staff will demonstrate Alaska's workforce information delivery system at Alaska's annual WIA conference.

WIA Five-Year Plan Support: The successful implementation of Alaska's unified plan requires that policymakers, employers and jobseekers have access to workforce information.

Outcome: The job search and policymaking processes will be facilitated through the distribution of easily accessible workforce information. Outcome measurement will be based on an increase in the number of product users (as measured by system usage statistics).

<b>PY02 Milestones</b>	<b>Activity Description</b>	<b>Comp. Date</b>
Deploy a state-based workforce information delivery system	As a member of the Workforce Informer consortium, Alaska will implement the Workforce Informer delivery system early in PY02. The system is available free-of-charge to users with internet access.	10/01/02
Enhance Alaska's website	Delivery of workforce information will be continually improved through website enhancements such as the incorporation of a web-based search engine and the distribution of new or expanded datasets (e.g., fish harvesting employment estimates).	Ongoing

**Estimated Cost: \$60,000**

**8) Support State workforce information training activities**

Principal Customers: All users of workforce information, including One-Stop partner agencies, job seekers, vocational education planners and administrators, university planners and administrators, vocational rehabilitation counselors and administrators, civilian and military career counselors, secondary and postsecondary students and counselors and state policymakers

Focus: System development

Consultation with WIBs: WIB staff will be informed of training opportunities as they arise.

WIA Five-Year Plan Support: The successful implementation of Alaska’s unified plan is dependent on both the knowledge of the workforce information staff and the workforce statistics understanding of the data users.

Outcome: The effectiveness of Alaska’s workforce information system will increase through the professional development of both workforce information staff and users. Outcome measurement will be based on an increase in both the number of workforce statistics staff that receive labor market information training and the number of workforce statistics users attending workforce statistics training or presentations.

PY02 Milestones	Activity Description	Comp. Date
Provide training opportunities for professional and para-professional staff	Alaska will take advantage of distance learning opportunities provided by the LMI Institute throughout the program year. Of particular interest will be the labor market analyst, forecasting and LMI marketing training. As many staff as feasible will be sent to the PY02 LMI FORUM.	Ongoing
Conduct career information presentations	As part of its Perkins Section 118 grant commitment, DOL/R&A will conduct three (3) presentations on the use and availability of career and workforce information products such as the Alaska Career Information System (funded with Alaska’s Career Resource Network grant).	By 6/30/03
Conduct LMI presentations	Staff will conduct at least six (6) economic overview presentations to users throughout the state. User groups will include (but not be limited to) Alaska’s WIBs, chambers of commerce, industry groups, Department of Defense (Air Force, Army), school districts, One-Stop partner agencies (such as the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation and the Division of Public Assistance) the military and state policy makers.	Ongoing

**Estimated Cost: \$25,000**

**SECTION C: DESCRIPTION OF THE STRATEGY TO BE EMPLOYED FOR ASSESSING CUSTOMER SATISFACTION WITH STATE PRODUCED WORKFORCE INFORMATION**

Implementation of formal customer satisfaction assessment is awaiting the availability of the protocol currently being developed by the Workforce Information Council’s Customer Satisfaction Workgroup. During PY02, Alaska will solicit customer feedback through informal discussions with policymakers such as the state

administration, legislature and the Alaska Workforce Investment Board. For example, *ALASKA ECONOMIC TRENDS* continuously receives high praise from lead policy makers of the ADLWD the administration and legislature, as well as numerous unsolicited positive comments from private industry. Solicitation feedback from job seekers will await the availability of WIC customer satisfaction survey.