

Workforce Information Council (WIC) Mission and Priorities

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PURPOSE

The purpose of this document is to clearly state the mission and priorities of the Workforce Information Council, primarily as a way to help the WIC focus on shared priorities in the current one- or two-year period.

The priorities listed in this document reflect input from WIC members, the NASWA LMI Committee, and State LMI Directors (from their May 18, 2009 Planning Forum), followed by discussion at the July and November 2009 WIC meetings. Items on the list are supported by both federal and state WIC members. Items not supported by both groups are eliminated from this list, but may still be priorities in other venues.

MISSION

The mission of the Workforce Information Council is to provide oversight and guidance to the nation's workforce information system and to improve the quality, quantity, relevance, and availability of workforce information. The WIC mission is consistent with requirements in the Workforce Investment Act of 1998, Section 309. WIC accomplishes its mission by:

- Providing direction for the improvement of the BLS cooperative statistical programs and system;
- Providing direction for the improvement of other components of the nation's workforce information system, i.e. those beyond the direct purview of the BLS.
- Identifying and attempting to fill gaps (both data and dissemination) in the workforce information system by chartering teams to develop technical assistance, by proposing Department of Labor (DOL) budget initiatives, and by other strategies;
- Communicating with and educating stakeholders on the products, services, and value-added of the workforce information system.

In selecting opportunities for improving the quality, quantity, relevance, and availability of workforce information, the WIC strives for State-DOL consensus.

PRIORITIES

Providing Direction for the Improvement of BLS Programs

1. Data Quality -- Improve the quality of state and local data and analysis, particularly in relation to the CES, LAUS, and OES programs through: improved sample response rates, improved tools and methods, and/or increased sample size for the relevant surveys. *[Ongoing]*
2. CES -- Implement and identify potential improvements to the new State processing system. *[Ongoing]*
3. CES -- Implement changes to align National and State nonfarm payroll estimates. *[In process]*
4. CES -- Restore State and area series cut during temporary 2008 budget reduction. *[Done]*
5. LAUS -- Explore alternative seasonal adjustment methodologies. *[In process]*
6. LAUS -- Explore alternative real-time benchmarking methodologies.
7. QCEW -- Continue development of new State processing system. *[In process]*
8. ~~QCEW -- Study effects of 4 year refile cycle on quality of establishment data. <<No consensus--States to review and respond back to BLS if they want this to remain on the list.>> <<Dropped by Mutual Consent >>~~
9. QCEW -- Study, report, and improve on the quality of EDI collected data. Begin implementation of recommendations. *[In process]*
10. QCEW -- Explore alternative funding sources for development of State processing system. *[Done]*
11. OES -- Implement the 2010 SOC. *[In process]*
12. OES -- ~~Determine adequacy of BLS funding to support program objectives.~~ Implement Strategic Plan. Continue to make information and plans concerning modeling wage estimates available to OES stakeholders.
13. MLS -- Explore alternative funding strategies that better reflect variability and volume of workload.

14. System -- State Allocations Workgroup will complete its assignment, providing a recommendation for whether and how to change the formula input for State salary costs. *[In final stages]*
15. Funding -- Study and be cognizant of the cost and implications of future program changes.

Providing Direction for the Improvement of Other Components of the Workforce Information System

16. ETA -- Encourage ETA to be a full participant and member of the Workforce Information Council. Strive to have ETA fully engage with State LMI Directors in the planning process for the nation's employment statistics system, including full collaboration in the development of Workforce Information Grant core deliverables. *[Ongoing]*
17. Census -- Increase the Census-State collaboration, particularly regarding development of data analysis tools for Local Employment Dynamics and other Census data series, to improve service to various customer groups. *[Ongoing]*
18. Funding -- States work in collaboration with ETA to increase funding in real dollars to meet expectations of ETA-related LMI activities.
19. Funding -- States work in collaboration with Census to implement State funding for Local Employment Dynamics (LED) program activities.
20. Projections -- Improve projections and EDS (Estimates Delivery System). *[Ongoing]*
21. Education -- Build a working relationship with the US Department of Education to identify opportunities for collaboration on career information and employment outcomes.

Identifying and Filling Gaps in the Workforce Information System

22. Green Jobs -- WIC Green Jobs Study Group will complete its assignment. *[Done]*
23. LMI Technology -- WIC LMI System Technology Review will be completed. *[In final stages]*
24. LMI Technology -- Enhance LMI internet delivery systems in all states to be state-of-the-art. Support a multi-state effort to design new LMI Web-based analysis and delivery tools, incorporating data analysis across State and other boundaries, state-of-the-art mapping tools, and embracing "new" communication technologies.
25. UI Wage Records -- Develop one or more proposed solutions supported by BLS & the states for filling data & system gaps. The initial effort will focus on UI administrative records. *[In process]*
26. System -- Encourage Fed-State and State-to-State collaboration to enhance the capacity to conduct analysis of labor market statistics.

Consulting With and Educating Stakeholders

27. Marketing -- Market the Workforce Information System at NAWB, IEDC, and other conferences. *[Ongoing]*
28. Collaboration with LMI Directors -- Brainstorm opportunities for improving the system with all LMI directors at the BLS LMI conference. *[Done]*
29. LMI Directors -- State Reps will send a letter to all LMI Directors encouraging them to get engaged in their State's WIA strategic planning and economic recovery efforts. *[Done]*
30. Customer Consultations -- Identify mechanisms for systematic collection of input from stakeholders to assist in setting priorities for workforce information improvements.