
Washington envisions a nationally recognized fully integrated One-Stop system with enhanced customer access to program services, improved long-term employment outcomes for job seekers and consistent, high quality services to business customers. In order to achieve this vision, the WorkSource Standards & Integration Division sets a common direction and standards for Washington's WorkSource system through the development of WorkSource system policies, information memoranda, and technical assistance.

WorkSource Advisory Bulletin 10-11

**TO: Workforce Development Councils
WorkSource Area Directors
Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board**

FROM: Amy Smith-Rubeck, Deputy Assistant Commissioner

DATE: June 24, 2011

SUBJECT: Training and Employment Notice 19-10: Guide to State and Local Workforce Data for Analysis and Informed Decision Making

1. Purpose:

The purpose of this bulletin is to provide information about the "Guide to State and Local Workforce Data for Analysis and Informed Decision Making" which was announced in Training and Employment Notice (TEN) 19-10 and posted on the web by the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL), Employment and Training Administration (ETA). In noting the release of this workforce data resource, Employment Security reminds the audience of the wealth of state and local labor market information and expertise available through its Labor Market and Economic Analysis (LMEA) Branch, in particular Workforce Explorer and 12 Workforce Development Area (WDA) based Regional Labor Economists (RLEs).

2. Action:

None.

3. Background:

ETA developed the *Guide to State and Local Workforce Data* in response to input and feedback from the workforce and economic development community and general public regarding the need for 1) more state and local workforce data; 2) help in locating data that exists; and 3) assistance understanding and properly using the data. ETA also felt that many local workforce development system staff were insufficiently familiar with workforce data to use it routinely and effectively.

The *Guide* links workforce data from numerous federal sources, including the Employment and Training Administration, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Census Bureau, Bureau of Economic Analysis, National Center for Education Statistics, National Center for Health Statistics, U.S. Department of Agriculture, U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Social Security Administration;

and National Science Foundation.

The *Guide* is intended for a broad audience, including federal, state, and local workforce professionals; grant applicants and recipients; educators, trainers and career counselors; economic developers; strategic planners; community and faith-based organizations; employers; unions; researchers; students; and the general public.

Instructions for state and local strategic and operational plans as well as state and federal grant applications increasingly require the use of workforce data to establish a quantitative foundation. The same can be said of performance accountability and measurement. To this end, the *Guide* can be an effective resource/tool.

4. Information:

In noting the availability of the *Guide*, Employment Security would similarly note the availability of Washington-specific state and local labor market information – frequently at a greater level of detail than is obtainable from national sources – and expertise through LMEA. State and local workforce professionals are encouraged to take full advantage of LMEA’s products, services, and expertise. Of particular emphasis are LMEA’s Workforce Explorer, Labor Market Information Center, and 12 WDA-based RLEs.

Workforce Explorer: Workforce Explorer is the on-line source for state, county, and WDA labor market information. The data encompasses civilian labor force and unemployment rates; industry and occupational estimates and projections; job vacancy and employee benefit surveys; wage information; occupational demand/decline lists; and special studies. Local labor market “dashboards” are available as is the functionality to create custom pages tailored to local labor market information needs. Visit <http://www.workforceexplorer.com>.

Labor Market Information Center: The Labor Market Information Center can help answer labor market information questions by calling (800) 215-1617 or by emailing lmea2@esd.wa.gov.

Regional Labor Economists: LMEA has RLEs serving in each of the state’s 12 WDAs. These labor economists provide custom research and analytical services to many workforce professionals and organizations in their areas, including WorkSource offices, Workforce Development Councils, non-profit organizations, local governments, educational institutions, economic development organizations, businesses and employers, and press and media. A list of RLEs, contact information and WDA assignments can be found at the following link: <http://www.workforceexplorer.com/article.asp?SUBID=&ARTICLEID=1688>

Other Washington State Data Resources: Other notable sources of state-specific data are the Office of Financial Management, Education Data and Research Center, Office of the Economic and Revenue Forecast Council, Department of Health, Department of Revenue, Department of Agriculture, and Department of Social and Health Services. Like Employment Security, these state entities are often the source of data provided by federal agencies in the *Guide*. Links to the research and data arms of the aforementioned state entities are provided below under “Website.” There are, of course, other state agencies that produce data that may be useful for planning, research, and grants. For a complete listing of state agencies, please visit the Washington state government site, “Access Washington” at <http://access.wa.gov/agency/agency.aspx>.

5. References:

TEN 19-10; *Guide to State and Local Workforce Data: For Analysis and Informed Decision Making*; U.S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration; December 10, 2010.

6. Websites:

Training and Employment Notice 19-10: <http://wdr.doleta.gov/directives/attach/TEN19-10acc.pdf>

Workforce Explorer: <http://www.workforceexplorer.com/>

LMEA Regional Labor Economists:

<http://www.workforceexplorer.com/article.asp?SUBID=&ARTICLEID=1688>

Office of the Economic and Revenue Forecast Council: <http://www.ercf.wa.gov/forecast/index.shtml>

Office of Financial Management: <http://www.ofm.wa.gov/forecasting/default.asp>

Education Data and Research Center: <http://www.ercd.wa.gov/data/>

Department of Revenue: <http://dor.wa.gov/content/AboutUs/StatisticsAndReports/Default.aspx>

Department of Health: <http://www.doh.wa.gov/Data/data.htm>

Department of Agriculture: <http://agr.wa.gov/AqInWA/>

Department of Social and Health Services: <http://www.dshs.wa.gov/rda/>

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