

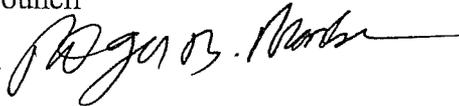
**TRANSMITTAL #4**

**MEMORANDUM**

**June 6, 2007**

**TO:** Workforce Development Council

**FROM:** Roger B. Madsen, Director



**SUBJECT:** Workforce Information Grant/Plan

**ACTION REQUESTED:** Provide Direction and Endorse 2007-2008 Workforce Information Grant/Plan

**BACKGROUND:**

The Department of Labor is asking for review and endorsement of the Workforce Information work plan. The purpose of this review is to:

- Guarantee the Workforce Development Council (WDC) can exercise its responsibility for ensuring that state workforce information policy is responsive to the needs of the state and local workforce investment system;
- Support the state's goals for the Workforce Information Act / Wagner-Peyser five-year strategic plan for state and local workforce development;
- Ensure Labor activities are consistent with the strategic vision of the governor and the council and
- Develop a broad strategic approach for workforce information delivery to principal customers.

A summary of the Workforce Information Grant 2007-2008 Products and Services is attached for your review.

**Staff Recommendation:**

Staff recommend that the Council offer any comments/recommendations for changes and endorse the attached Workforce Information Plan.

**Contacts:** Primary: Bob Uhlenkott, Chief Research Officer (208) 332-3570, ext. 3217  
Secondary: Janell Hyer, Economist – Public Affairs Bureau (208) 332-3570, ext. 3220

Attachment

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# Idaho Workforce Information

## Abstract of Products and Services

*June - 2007 - DRAFT*

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The proposed plan is designed to fulfill the workforce information needs described below. The process should:

- Guarantee the Workforce Development Council (WDC) can exercise its responsibility for ensuring that state workforce information policy is responsive to the needs of the state and local workforce investment system;
- Support the state's goals for the Workforce Information Act / Wagner-Peyser five-year strategic plan for state and local workforce development;
- Ensure Labor activities are consistent with the strategic vision of the governor and the council and
- Develop a broad strategic approach for workforce information delivery to principal customers.

The Workforce Information Core Deliverables are outlined in the following narrative:

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### ❖ **Populate America's Labor Market Information System Database**

Idaho's America's Labor Market Information System Database (v2.2) will be accessed via Commerce & Labor's internet delivery system. It is estimated the new department's hosted and developed delivery system will be fully available and operational in January of 2008.

Idaho's database is populated with tables required by the ALMIS workgroup and is updated throughout the year with weekly, monthly and quarterly data as it becomes available. All core tables are uploaded, current and listed below:

- CES--Current Employment Statistics
- LAUS--Local Area Unemployment Statistics
- Income
- Idaho Long-term Industry Projections
- Sub-state Long-term Industry Projections
- Idaho Long-term Occupational Projections
- Sub-state Long-term Occupational Projections
- Idaho Short-term Industry Projections
- Idaho Short-term Occupational Projections
- Input/Output Matrix
- Occupational and Employment Statistics
- Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages
- Professional Licensing Information
- Population Data

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## ❖ **Produce and Disseminate Industry and Occupational Employment Projections**

Using methodology, software and guidelines from the Projections Workgroup & Projections Managing Partnership, Idaho will produce, disseminate and/or submit:

- Sub-state long-term 2006-2016 (biennial) industry employment projections
- Sub-state long-term 2006-2016 (biennial) occupational employment projections
- State-level short-term 2007-2009 (annual) industry employment projections
- State-level short-term 2007-2009 (annual) occupational employment projections
- Data for public dissemination pursuant to Projections Workgroup & Projections Managing Partnership procedures and associated applications.

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## ❖ **Provide Employment, Occupational and Career Information Products**

- **Maintain and Enhance Idaho's newly developed Electronic Workforce Information Delivery System** ~ Commerce & Labor's new internet delivery system is estimated to be fully available and operational in January of 2008. It includes Idaho's internet delivery system for dissemination of labor market information and Idaho's electronic one-stop center for acquiring labor market information. Idaho Commerce & Labor will continue to use this data and research dissemination tool as its primary venue for distributing Idaho labor market information.
- **Projections Data Dissemination** ~ Idaho will develop and disseminate data that synthesizes occupational employment data with long-term projections data. This product will display the fastest growing, most proliferate and most abundant occupations, by educational/training category. Projections in their entirety are published via the America's Labor Market Information System database and projections Web page for labor market information.
- **Occupational Employment Statistics Wage Publication and SOC/OES Glossary** ~ Idaho Commerce & Labor will continue to develop and publish OES, wage and employment Labor Market Information, our top requested product. This includes both wages and employment estimates at the state and sub-state level. A hard copy publication will be published annually, while semi-annual data will be available in PDF, Excel and through Idaho's Labor Market Information Web site.
- **LED Program** ~ Idaho Commerce & Labor has partnered with the U.S. Census Bureau's Local Employment Dynamics program, an innovative collaboration between state partners and the U.S. Census Bureau. This partnership works to fill critical data gaps and provide economic indicators and information to participating states, enhancing the decision-making process for state and local authorities. As part of the agenda, various administrative record files (e.g., Unemployment Insurance wage files and Quarterly Census and Employment Wage data) are sent to the U.S. Census Bureau, after which each state is provided with Quarterly Workforce Indicators (QWI) data. The receipt of this data marks the beginning of a unique partnership with the U.S. Census Bureau, providing Idaho Commerce & Labor and the state of Idaho with a valuable resource for research and publication opportunities.

- **Economic Multiplier Application – EMSI** ~ Idaho Commerce & Labor will utilize a new application that integrates census and labor data, along with input/output models specifically designed for Idaho and its sub-state regions. This new product allows staff to research and answer questions on a near real-time basis concerning the impact on occupations, industry and other economic factors from forecasted economic expansions and contractions. The strength of the EMSI product is that it uses census data to estimate confidential cells allowing for more data available to the public.
- **Monthly Newsletter** ~ Idaho Commerce & Labor continues to publish a monthly newsletter that diffuses local area labor market information to the six work force information regions. The hard copy version is also available online on Idaho’s labor market information Web site. This effort is designed to cull data from the programs and applications previously mentioned and deliver regional labor market information specific to the needs of our local partners and customers.
- **Education & Training Pay** ~ Idaho will develop the annual *Does Education & Training Pay*. This product is an illustration that combines occupational and employment statistics with education codes developed by the Bureau of Labor Statistics and the Current Population Survey.
- **Training** ~ The regional economists provide one-on-one instruction, group classes, and e-mail messages to employment consultants in Idaho Commerce & Labor, local colleges and high schools, economic development organizations and workforce partner agencies—when requested—to keep them abreast of trends in the national and local labor markets. Training for staff in *geographic information systems*, online analytical processing, data cube development, estimate delivery systems, long- and short-term projections and skills-based employment projections will be pursued on an “as needed” basis.
- **Employer Databases** ~ Idaho will continue to augment the Idaho Business Directory via new Idaho business registrations for which a release is given as well as the *Info USA* Directory sponsored by the Employment and Training Administration.
- **Fringe Benefit Survey (Biennial)** ~ Idaho will follow up the 05/06 Fringe Benefit Survey in response to repeated requests for fringe benefit information from both public and private sector customers. Idaho will revamp the survey to be more employer friendly and cost effective. This effort began in 2006 and will culminate in the survey being conducted and findings being released in 2007.
- **Skills Based Employment and Projections Application** ~ Idaho Commerce & Labor now has the capability to assimilate the O-net Skills database with our powerful projections data, enabling the immediate analyses of existing and emerging skills gaps in Idaho’s labor force. Idaho is partnering with economic development experts and education curricula developers to analyze labor availability in terms of skills and potential skills gaps that need to be bridged with education.
- **Underemployment Metric** ~ This new innovative approach automates department-wide data to produce semi-annual county underemployment rates by county. We will continue to enhance this metric as data becomes available.
- **Collaborations and Requests ~ Minimum Wage ~ Local and Regional Research ~ Education and its Impact on the Workforce and the Economy ~ Industry Cluster Research, Emerging Industries and Occupations, Education and Skills** ~ Marketing and Training Materials and Equipment and the like are the results of research collaborations and ad-hoc data and research requests.
- **Final Economic Report** ~ A comprehensive compilation of the department’s economic research efforts.