

TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT NOTICE	NO. 18-12
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TO: STATE GOVERNORS
STATE WIA LIAISONS
STATE WORKFORCE ADMINISTRATORS
WIB STATE EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS
WIB LOCAL EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS
WIA SECTION 166 AND 477 GRANTEES
AMERICAN JOB CENTERS

FROM: JANE OATES *Jane Oates*
Assistant Secretary

SUBJECT: Release and Availability of Five Employment and Training Administration (ETA) Occasional Papers on the Evaluation of Labor Market Information Improvement Grants

1. Purpose. To announce the release and availability of the following ETA Occasional Papers:

- *Investing in Labor Market Information (LMI): A Summary of the State LMI Improvement Grants*
- *Investing in Labor Market Information (LMI): Insights from the Recovery Act LMI Grants*
- *Using Real-Time LMI To Explore Green Jobs*
- *Disseminating Labor Market Information: Insights from the State LMI Improvement Grants*
- *Strategic Partnering to Advance LMI: Insights from the State LMI Improvement Grants*

2. Background. In December 2009, the Department of Labor awarded approximately \$50 million in State LMI Improvement grants (LMI grants) to 24 individual state workforce agencies (SWAs) and 6 consortia of SWAs. Grantees used these LMI grants, which ranged from approximately \$750,000 to \$4 million, to collect, analyze, and disseminate LMI, and enhance the labor-exchange function in states. Each SWA or consortium was required to form multiple partnerships to help facilitate efforts to improve LMI in the state. Grantees' activities included efforts to understand green jobs, connect workers to jobs, and enhance LMI labor exchange infrastructure for jobs and careers in the energy efficiency and renewable energy industries. Grantees' activities were expected to benefit job seekers, businesses, educational institutions, and the overall economy in their states or regions.

In September 2010, ETA contracted with Mathematica Policy Research (Mathematica) to evaluate the extent to which the State LMI Improvement grant program was achieving its stated purposes. Mathematica was asked to broadly document the activities of all 30 grantees, provide a detailed description of the activities and partnerships of a subset of grantees, and identify

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grantees' challenges and promising practices. This study includes a summary report of the grantee activities, a final report and three LMI practitioner briefs.

3. Description. The Grantee Summary Report entitled *Investing in Labor Market Information (LMI): A Summary of State LMI Improvement Grants*, is based on a review of grantees' statements of work, quarterly progress reports, and information gathered from in-depth site visits with the following nine grantees: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of Labor and Industry, Indiana Department of Workforce Development, Iowa Workforce Development, Maryland Department of Labor Licensing and Regulation, New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development, New Mexico Department of Workforce Solutions, State of Oregon Employment Department, and Vermont Department of Labor. This report summarizes information about these grantees' goals, definitions of green jobs, partners and stakeholders, activities, products, and dissemination strategies for the 30 LMI grantees.

The Final Report of this evaluation provides an in-depth description of the experiences of the previously mentioned nine grantees and presents lessons that may provide useful information for future efforts. This report complements the Grantee Summary Report. The final report findings include challenges the grantees experienced due to the short grant length, implementation issues, as well as the evolving definition of green jobs. The report also explains how grantees leveraged the LMI grants to enhance organizational capacity, develop a better understanding of the green economy, and disseminate findings to users, ultimately moving LMI forward at state and national levels.

The LMI Practitioner Briefs are part of a series that explores lessons from the LMI grant program including:

- *Using Real-Time LMI to Explore Green Jobs* - provides some lessons learned from the grantees' experiences using LMI available on a real-time basis when compared with information that has been vetted in some form. The lessons include being cautious when using real-time LMI and combining such information with traditional data to ensure a higher level of reliability. While the brief draws on experiences and lessons from all of the LMI grantees, it focuses on the work of the Northeast Consortium.
- *Disseminating Labor Market Information: Insights from the State LMI Improvement Grants* - uses the experiences of the LMI grantees to offer some strategies to consider when planning future LMI dissemination efforts. While the LMI grantees were particularly focused on disseminating information on green jobs, the lessons from these dissemination efforts are more broadly applicable.
- *Strategic Partnering to Advance LMI: Insights from the State LMI Improvement Grants* - is intended to serve as a reference for LMI practitioners and others when considering future partnerships. It describes elements of strategic partnering to advance labor market information.

4. Inquiries. To view abstracts of these publications as well as to download full reports as PDFs, visit the ETA Research Publication Database Web site at: <http://wdr.doleta.gov/research/keyword.cfm>.