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DEPARTMENT OF LABOR & INDUSTRY
OFFICE OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION

Labor Market Information: Awareness and Use

BACKGROUND

Job-Driven Vocational Rehabilitation Technical Assistance Center (JD-VRTAC)

PA OVR was selected as one of 12 state vocational rehabilitation (VR) agencies to receive intensive Technical Assistance through the Job-Driven Vocational Rehabilitation Technical Assistance Center (JD-VRTAC) to learn about and implement job-driven practices for the project year: October 15, 2015 – October 14, 2016.

JD-VRTAC is a national center for improving VR responsiveness to job-driven needs and is a part of the Institute for Community Inclusion (ICI) at the University of Massachusetts Boston. The Center strives to identify, adapt, embed, and sustain job-driven practices into VR agencies, leading to improved employment outcomes for people with disabilities.

One component of this project involves increasing the awareness and use of Labor Market Information (LMI) during the VR Process.

Click the Next Button to learn about the definition of LMI.

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DEFINITIONS

What is Labor Market Information (LMI)?

Labor Market Information (LMI) can be defined as the systematic collection, analysis, reporting, and publishing of a broad range of data that describes current economic conditions within a given geographic area. LMI includes all quantitative and qualitative data and analysis related to employment and the workforce. The goal of LMI is to help customers make informed plans, choices,

and decisions for a variety of purposes, including career planning and preparation, education and training offerings, and job search opportunities.

Characteristics of LMI include, but are not limited to:
- Supply and demand for a particular job type
- Industry and occupational characteristics
- Capacity and immediate results from education, training, and job placement
- Economic and workforce trends
- Needs and expectations of industries and specific occupations
- Perceived value of education and certificate programs

LMI can be obtained from a variety of sources.

Click the Next Button to read about the Scope and Purpose of this survey.

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SCOPE AND PURPOSE

This survey is designed to gather information about your current level of awareness of Labor Market Information (LMI), as well as your current level of use. We will ask you about your use of general LMI, as well as the specific LMI available through Labor and Industry's Center for Workforce Information & Analysis (CWIA) and their PA WorkStats website.

For the purposes of this survey, LMI includes the following components:
1. Demographics (e.g, race/ethnicity, gender, age, education level, family status)
2. Unemployment rates
3. Skill requirements
4. Wages and benefits
5. Demand for or growth of particular industries or occupations
6. Career Projections (e.g., openings, advancement opportunities, wage increases)

Thank you for offering your input through this survey.

Your input will be used to develop a focused training curriculum regarding the use of LMI.

Click the Next Button to begin the survey.

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1. What is your current employment classification within OVR?

○ Early Reach Coordinator (ERC)

○ Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor (VRC)

○ Business Services/Placement Counselor (BSC)

○ Business Services Representative (BSR)

○ Vocational Rehabilitation Supervisor

○ Assistant District Administrator (ADA)

○ District Administrator (DA)

○ Other (Please list your current employment classification)

[   ]

2. How long have you been employed with OVR?

○ Less than two years

○ 2-5 years

○ 6-10 years

○ 11-15 years

○ More than 15 years

3. Describe your opinion on the following statement: "Labor market information (LMI) should be included in vocational planning with OVR customers."

Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
○	○	○	○	○

* 4. Do you currently use LMI as part of your vocational planning with OVR customers?

○ No

○ Yes

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5. Why don't you use LMI as part of your vocational planning with OVR customers? (Select all that apply)

☐ Was unfamiliar with LMI prior to this survey

☐ Don't know how to find/access LMI

☐ Don't know how to explain LMI to customers

☐ Don't believe LMI is necessary for vocational planning purposes

☐ Don't have time to utilize LMI in vocational planning

☐ Other (Please enter additional barriers that prevent you from using LMI as part of your vocational planning with OVR customers.)

* 6. What type of support would you require to start using labor market information as part of your vocational planning with OVR customers? (Select all that apply. After selecting your answers, click the Next Button to continue to the next question.)

☐ Information about potential sources that offer LMI

☐ Guidance on the technical aspects of obtaining LMI (e.g., navigation of websites)

☐ Explanation of methods to interpret LMI

☐ Education about how to present LMI to OVR customers

☐ Guidance on how LMI could be used to impact the VR process

☐ Other (Please list other types of information you would require to start using LMI as part of your vocational planning with OVR customers. You may also offer suggestions about how the information could be delivered and/or training methods.)

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7. What resources do you use to access LMI for vocational planning with OVR customers? (Select all that apply)

- ☐ O*Net
- ☐ TORQ
- ☐ Bureau of Labor Statistics
- ☐ CWIA's PA WorkStats
- ☐ Other (Please Specify)

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8. How often do you incorporate each of the following components of LMI into your vocational planning with OVR customers?

	Never	Rarely	Sometimes	Regularly	Frequently
Demographics (e.g, race/ethnicity, gender, age, education level, family status)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Unemployment rates	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Skill requirements	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Wages and benefits	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Demand for or growth of particular industries or occupations	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Career Projections (e.g., openings, advancement opportunities, wage increases)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

9. How often do you use LMI for each of the following purposes?

	Never	Rarely	Sometimes	Regularly	Frequently
To help customers see career potential or "career ladders"	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
To demonstrate demand for a particular skill set in local area	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
To determine industries that are likely to provide employment opportunities	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
To help guide customers in selecting education and/or training programs	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
To broaden customer perspectives on vocational interests	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
To redirect customer away from an unrealistic career goal	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

* 10. What type of support or training would you require to increase your use of LMI in your vocational planning with OVR customers? (Select all that apply)

☐ Information about potential sources that offer LMI

☐ Guidance on the technical aspects of obtaining LMI (e.g., navigation of websites)

☐ Explanation of methods to interpret LMI

☐ Education about how to present LMI to OVR customers

☐ Guidance on how LMI could be used to impact the VR process

☐ Other (Please list other types of information you would require to increase your use of LMI as part of your vocational planning with OVR customers. You may also offer suggestions about how the information could be delivered and/or training methods.)

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* 11. Are you familiar with the PA WorkStats website from the Center for Workforce Information & Analysis (CWIA)?

○ Yes (Click the Next Button to Continue to the next question.)

○ No (Click the Next Button to Skip to Survey End)

12. How often do you access LMI and/or related products from CWIA's PA WorkStats website?

Never	Rarely	Sometimes	Regularly	Frequently
◯	◯	◯	◯	◯

If you have indicated that you Never or Rarely access LMI from CWIA's PA WorkStats website, please explain the reason. You may include suggestions for improvement of website navigation or content, if applicable.

13. Describe the level of difficulty in accessing LMI from CWIA's PA WorkStats website.

Very Difficult	Somewhat Difficult	Neutral	Somewhat Easy	Very Easy
◯	◯	◯	◯	◯

14. Please recommend possible improvements to CWIA's PA WorkStats website. Suggestions might relate to site navigation, available content, document formatting and/or layout, accessibility, etc.

15. How useful is each of the following CWIA products as part of your vocational planning with OVR customers?

	Not Useful at All	Useful	Very Useful	Haven't Used This Product
County Profiles	☐	☐	☐	☐
PA Career Guide	☐	☐	☐	☐
PA Monthly/Quarterly WorkStats Publications	☐	☐	☐	☐
High Priority Occupations (HPOs)	☐	☐	☐	☐
Long-Term Occupational Employment Projections	☐	☐	☐	☐
Occupational Videos	☐	☐	☐	☐
Occupational Wages	☐	☐	☐	☐
Industries of Interest	☐	☐	☐	☐
Top 50 Employers	☐	☐	☐	☐
Top 50 Industries	☐	☐	☐	☐
Monthly News Releases	☐	☐	☐	☐

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THANK YOU

Thank you for completing the survey.
Your input will help to develop training opportunities related to Labor Market Information (LMI).

Click the Done Button to submit your survey responses as final.