

Grants for State Workforce Agencies (SWA) to develop Workforce Data Quality Initiative (WDQI)

- Purpose is to develop or improve state workforce longitudinal data systems so individual level records can be matched to one another across programs and over time.
- Enable workforce data to be matched with education data, to ultimately create longitudinal systems with individual level information for pre-kindergarten through post-secondary into the workforce systems, while protecting individual privacy.
- Important that systems includes array of performance information in order to enhance knowledge about the workforce system and the impact of state workforce development programs.
- Use the longitudinal data to provide useful information about program operations and analyze the performance of educational and training programs.
- Provide user friendly information to consumers to help them select the education and training programs that best suit their needs.

Relative prominence of each objective of the grant listed above will primarily be determined by state's '*launch-point*' for developing a workforce longitudinal data system which will ultimately be linked to educational data and will reflect high quality standards while protecting individual privacy.

Assumption at this point is South Dakota's launch-point is a '*state without a longitudinal data system*'; therefore, if grant money is received, our state would be expected to

- Develop and fully implement system
- Enable new workforce system to be linked to existing educational longitudinal database systems
- Begin conducting basic analysis and research with completed systems within the three-year grant period.

At *minimum* database should include data for following programs:

- WIA Title I
- Wagner-Peyser Act
- Trade Adjustment Assistance
- UI wage record data
- UI benefit data including demographic information
- Linkages to existing state education agency longitudinal data

States are encouraged to review existing state examples of Workforce Longitudinal Data Systems, in particular ADARE (Administrative Data Research and Evaluation) alliance partners. Texas is one of the state ADARE partners. A webinar on June 8th provided an overview of the **Texas Student Futures Project**.

All but two of the state ADARE partners (Florida and Washington) use a state research university to assemble, house and analyze their data. In Washington, the state workforce investment board collects and maintains the data. In Florida, the data system relies upon a collaborative data collection commitment from the Office of Educational Accountability and Information Services and the Florida Agency for Workforce Innovation.

The grant solicitation encourages multi-state data systems, noting this is the most collaborative approach being most efficient as resources are shared.

A pre-recorded webinar providing guidance for prospective applicants became available June 21, 2010.