

Ohio's Design Plan

The design plan updates the proposed activities, provides detailed reporting for the WDQI, and offers a timeline for carrying out this project.

A. Summary of Grant Activities

Administrative Development

The structure around the WDQI in Ohio has been in development. Keith Ewald serves as the program manager, while the Ohio State University's CHRR (Center for Human Resource Research) has been contracted to manage the Data. Randy Olsen and Josh Hawley serve as the primary contacts with the program. Darrell Glenn is the primary contact from the Board of Regents.

In order to put the WDQI into practice, the team has met regularly, participated in the DOL sponsored technical assistance efforts, and developed a Design Plan that outlines the proposed activities.

Technical Development

As of February 2011, the legal agreement with the Ohio Board of Regents has been completed and plans are in place to begin transferring Higher Education Information system data to CHRR in the spring. Legal agreements that would govern transferring the ODJFS data to CHRR are in process.

In the case of the Higher Education Information system, CHRR and the Board of Regents anticipate transferring the data in its entirety, enabling CHRR to download the Oracle table structure that the HEI is currently stored in. Similar data transfer protocols will happen with the remaining education data, including the Adult Workforce and Adult Basic Education & Literacy data. Of course these data are not static inasmuch as student flow in and out of the system, so this activity will continue throughout the award period.

We will begin to move ODJFS data, including Workforce Data, Wage Records, and UI Benefits data to CHRR in the spring as well. These data are stored as separate data systems within ODJFS. While they are all managed as relational databases, the team has met a number of times to discuss the processes for data transfer as well as the format that the data will take. Some ODJFS data are stored in Oracle, which will make data transfers to the CHRR Oracle system fairly straightforward, but other data resources at ODJFS are maintained in DB2, and we currently believe this will require a data export. This activity will also continue during the award period. See Attachment A for proposed data sources and linkages.

B. Status Update on Strategic Partnership Activities

The proposal offered partnerships both within ODJFS divisions, as well as across state agencies and universities. At this point, the WDQI has helped facilitate a series of meetings within ODJFS, and seeded the long-term discussion about the role of the WDQI in promoting cross agency reporting and evaluation.

Secondly, partnerships outside of ODJFS have enabled the research team to work with the Board of Regents and ODJFS in a collaborative fashion. The relationship with the Board of Regents is established, and the Ohio State's team is working with both state agencies.

The project has also focused state level efforts on data sharing and provided an opportunity to link with ongoing education data systems development in the State Longitudinal Data System (SLDS) managed by the Ohio Department of Education (ODE). The ODE is aware of the progress we are making in assembling the workforce and higher education data, and in the next year we will begin exploring further connections.

Further efforts in the coming quarter will focus on developing a communications strategy for the initiative, as well as setting up a Research Advisory Committee, which will provide focused guidance on the evaluation of Ohio data.

In general, the partnerships are working as proposed in the grant. There has been no major shift in the organizations that are engaged in the WDQI.

C. Timeline for Grant Activities and Deliverables

The overall objective for the WDQI is to establish a longitudinal data repository for employment and education data at the Ohio State University (OSU). As part of this effort, the project includes several critical goals;

- 1) developing an archive of data from ODJFS and the Board of Regents at OSU;
- 2) establishing the middleware schema for documenting the data;
- 3) setting up a research agenda for use of the Ohio data; and,
- 4) producing operational, evaluation, and research reports.

In order to accomplish these goals we have detailed the implementation of these four elements in the attached chart.

Project Goals	Benchmarks	Milestones	Deadlines	Deliverables
Establish the Data Archive	1. Sign legal agreements	-Draft legal agreements (Jan 1, 2011) -Final legal agreements (Feb-March 2011)	Feb 1, 2011 (BOR); March 1, 2011 (ODJFS)	Copy of legal agreements
	2. Establish data transfer protocols/timeline	-Draft memo on data structure (March 1, 2011)	March 1, 2011 (BOR); April 1 (ODJFS)	Data transfer memos (internal document)
Middleware design by CHRR	1. Development of variable documentation	-Review of existing codebooks in ODJFS/BOR -Development of coding structure for reduced data set that CHRR manages -Establishment of variables (including titles, keywords, code blocks) for WDQI data.	May 1, 2011 (BOR Data) for initial review of codebooks and coding structure; July 1 for ODJFS data Coding structure/variables (September 1, 2011)	WDQI composition and layout on a flow basis
Research agenda established	1. Establishment of research advisory committee	-Recruitment of research advisory committee -Design of rules/procedures for working with WDQI data	August, 2011 (Recruitment of committee) December 2011	List of research committee Memo detailing procedures for

			-Development of long-range plan for workforce and education analyses	(Establishment of long-range plan for uses for the data repository)	accessing data Initial reports
Operational, Evaluation, Research Reports	1. Operational reports	-Selection of reporting outcomes that would make use of WDQI data archive.	Unknown - dependent on the advisory committee	Unknown - dependent on the advisory committee	
	2. Evaluation Reports	-Apprenticeship evaluation (ETA)	ETA is sponsoring a cross state study of apprenticeship programs	Data reports delivered to ETA	
		- Reemployment and education after a period of job loss.	Unknown at present	Unknown at present	
	3. Research Reports	-Labor market and educational outcomes of adult basic education.	Proposal for funding drafted	Development of research design	Final research report

D. Data Security and Linkages

In the process of putting together the legal agreements covering the education data, the WDQI focused attention at the state BOR on the use of FERPA regulations in this context. The legal agreement that was developed allows for the transfer of data to Ohio State from BOR with personal information in order to facilitate matching with workforce data from ODJFS. There were several legal discussions that took place connecting to FERPA. Some of the relevant modifications to the agreement are worth noting for other states in the DQI. These include the following:

- a. A provision to remove PII from any data that is used for research purposes;
- b. A provision to provide for signature of approval of research efforts from the BOR and ODJFS before they are approved; and
- c. A requirement that any research proposed through the WDQI use the review process of the OSU's Institutional Review Board, which is intended to ensure that individual research projects do not breach privacy and maintain the confidentiality of the data managed by CHRR.

The overall data security as proposed in the WDQI proposal remain in force through this effort. CHRR has a very secure facility, and any and all data will be stored with the procedures described in the proposal to ensure the data are management correctly.

E. Additional Information

- **Reemployment and education after a period of job loss.** Using data from the UI benefits files and the Higher Education Information System we will examine the reemployment rates of adults that applied for UI benefits as well as the enrollment in higher education certificates and degrees. It is possible to focus on specific sub-populations, such as those individuals that were part of a mass unemployment at Wilmington, because data are provided as part of the participation in services from the National Emergency Grants.
- **Multiple supports for individuals.** Using data from the ODJFS and OBR files we will be able to count participation rates in multiple state programs by individual. For example, which individuals had both WIA Title 1 and were enrolled in ABLE services?
- **Labor market and educational outcomes of adult basic education.** Individuals who started in ABLE programs will be followed into higher education using the HEI data, as well as into the labor market using the WIA/TAA/LE data sets. These linked data will allow for a systematic view of the outcomes of ABLE programs. The data will be used by the BOR as it realigns services provided for adult basic education recipients.

Partnerships with neighboring states

There are no modifications of plans to share data across neighboring states. Efforts in this initial grant will focus on making full use of Ohio's data. There are, however, possible linkages through the Region 2 data file that links UI records across a range of states. Efforts will be made to improve upon education and employment data by linking specifically to UI records in other states. There are parallel efforts to link education records, in order to expand upon initial activities carried out by NCHMS. State education agencies from Ohio, WV, and Indiana worked on a proposal to the Institute for Education Sciences to build a regional data matching system for education records. CHRR and the OBOR were partners on this effort. Although it was not funded, we will continue to develop regional data systems.