

Purpose

The Wage Record Interchange System (WRIS) was created by the federal government to assist states in responding to performance and reporting requirements contained in the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (WIA) and programs authorized under the Wagner-Peyser Act. Currently 49 states participate in WRIS. Hawaii is the only state not participating. The WRIS serves as a clearinghouse for state Unemployment Insurance (UI) wage record data, which states may access to track the employment outcomes for individuals who participated in a state workforce investment program and subsequently left the state. States volunteering to join the WRIS agree to share UI wage record data with the clearinghouse and other states, and in return, may access wage record data from participating members.

Benefits to PRISM

Prior to adding WRIS employment data to PRISM, individuals who received services from Oregon's workforce system but went to work in another state were counted as not employed. With the addition of WRIS data, those individuals who went to work in another state are counted as employed in the placement and retention reports.

Regions boarding states benefit the most from the addition of WRIS data. Workforce regions boarding Washington, Idaho, and California show an increase placement rates from 2 to 8 percentage points.

Procedures Governing Data Access

To participate in the WRIS, a state must sign a contract with ETA that specifies the conditions and procedures governing data access. Under the agreement, states identify a State Unemployment Insurance Agency (SUIA) that holds wage data. The SUIA responsibility in Oregon is the Employment Department. A Performance Accountability and Customer Information Agency (PACIA), or agencies, designated by the governor, have the responsibility for coordinating performance assessment under WIA. Both the Employment Department and the Department of Community Colleges and Workforce Development are designated as PACIA's in Oregon.

Acceptable Uses of WRIS Data

PACIA's may make requests for wage record data for the following purposes:

1. To obtain Wage Data for performance and reporting requirements for state and local programs within the jurisdiction of the Department of Labor, including those authorized under: (i) Title I of the Workforce Investment Act; (ii) Section 403(a)(5) of the Social Security Act (42 USC 603(a)(5)); (iii) Chapter 2 of Title II of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 USC 2271 et seq.); (iv) Wagner-Peyser Act programs, and (v) Chapter 41 of Title 38 of the United States Code;
2. To allow the PACIA or other state agency to assess the performance of individual training providers under the Workforce Investment Act;
3. To allow the PACIA to obtain Wage Data used to satisfy the performance and reporting requirements for the Job Corps Program, Senior Community Service Employment Program, Migrant and Seasonal Farm Worker Program, Native American Program, Veterans Workforce Investment Program, Youth Build Program, Registered Apprenticeship Program, Prisoner Reentry Initiative Grant Program, H-1B Technical Skills Training Grant Program, and the Community-Based and High-Growth Job Training Initiative Grant Program; and,
4. To allow the PACIA or other state agency to address performance and reporting requirements set forth in state statute for programs and activities identified in subparagraphs 1 through 3.