

**Sent:** Wednesday, August 05, 2009 8:43 AM  
**To:** Ms. Michelle Saddler; Ms. Kristi LaFleur  
**Subject:** ARRA data, outcomes & transparency

Dear Kristi and Michelle,

To follow-up our conversation of July 9 regarding Recovery outcomes, equity, and transparency, we have some recommendations and several questions regarding data collection by various state agencies below. As always, we would be happy to talk with you further about these issues and/or speak with your data and research partners.

1. We recommend that the state take full advantage of the data that it already collects and report intake, training completion, and job placement by demographic categories including race/ethnicity, gender, and socio-economic status. Not only will this further reveal Illinois' successes in serving targeted populations, it can be used to inform the coordination of efforts across agencies and serve as baseline data for the interagency jobs task force.

2. We recommend that the information collected reflect not only the number of jobs created under the Recovery Act but also the type and quality of those jobs including, total hours of work generated by broad occupational categories, number of workers, full-time or part-time status, hourly wages paid, total payroll, extent of healthcare coverage, and access to other benefits such as paid sick time.

3. As workforce advocates our interests span several provisions of the Recovery Act, some of which fall outside the purview of DCEO; those provisions include WIA (including Summer Youth, Green Jobs & Healthcare,) TANF, TAA & UI re-employment funds, weatherization, construction, and transportation funds. Because these programs are administered across various agencies (e.g., DCEO, IDES, DHS, IDOT) we would ask:

- Which of these data points are already collected and by which agencies? In other words, can the job quality data listed above be gathered from existing sources?
- How standard is data collection and reporting across agencies? What would it take to standardize the data and reporting?

4. We recommend that outcomes be reported related to the training received – is the eventual placement in the same industry? Or are the skills learned used but in another job/sector?

5. We recommend that data be gathered on long-term outcomes. While we understand that it may be difficult to do this data collection on a broad scale, we believe that this type of data could provide valuable insights and recommend at a minimum that the state track a sample of customers. Long-term outcome questions could include: Are customers in the same job after a year and after 2 years? Or, are those customers in a different job unrelated to their training? Have they lost the job? If they had to quit, for what reasons? This may alert the state to job quality issues such as volatile scheduling and lack of paid sick time that are interfering with retention.

6. We recommend that the state expand the Corporate Accountability Progress Report tool to make this data available to the public. In addition, we recommend the state conduct periodic in-person updates on workforce outcomes through Recovery efforts to ensure that the important information you are gathering reaches outside of the internal process. This will also help organizations like ours make well informed recommendations in the future.

As mentioned above, members of our group would be happy to meet with your research and data partners to discuss any of these questions and recommendations further.