

From: "Jones, Michael - ETA"

Date: Thu, October 13, 2011 9:20 am

To: WRIS State Contacts

Cc: Advisory Group

Subject: Voluntary, Opt-In Wage Record Interchange System Data Sharing Agreement

Dear WRIS Colleagues:

A voluntary, opt-in Wage Record Interchange System (WRIS) Data Sharing Agreement for wage record data sharing with non-Department of Labor programs has been developed by the WRIS Advisory Group and approved for use by the Department of Labor. This Agreement, known as the WRIS2 Data Sharing Agreement, is attached for your consideration and signature, should your state wish to participate in the expanded data exchange.

As you know, the WRIS was initiated by ETA to facilitate state agencies obtaining unemployment insurance (UI) wage record information for individuals who have been employed in another state or states, in support of performance reporting requirements under section 136 of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (P.L. 105-220) (WIA) and other programs authorized by WIA. Specifically, the WIA section 136 (f) (2), authorized the Secretary of Labor to establish, consistent with state law, a system that ensured the wage records of any state would be available to any other state to the extent that such wage records are required by the state for performance purposes. The success of WRIS has led states to ask for the WRIS2.

The concept for WRIS2 developed from the interest of some states to share aggregate wage record information with partner programs not covered under the terms of the WRIS Data Sharing Agreement. In particular, WRIS2 extends the WRIS data sharing model to One-Stop Career Center partner programs such as education programs and other programs not under the jurisdiction of the Department of Labor, as well as any programs WIA defines as "additional" partners, whose participation in the One-Stop delivery system is appropriate but not mandatory.

Participation is completely voluntary, as is state participation in WRIS, and is also dependent on the states' laws governing the use of unemployment compensation information. Under WRIS2, only **aggregate** outcomes' information may be shared to satisfy the reporting and performance requirements for certain federal or state training and education programs while maintaining confidentiality of personal identifiable information.

Action Required for State Participation in WRIS2:

Authorized officials from each state's State Unemployment Insurance Agency (SUIA) and Performance Accountability and Customer Information Agencies (PACIA) should sign the WRIS2 Data Sharing Agreement in the attachment, and return the signed documents to:

WRIS Administration
Command Decisions Systems & Solutions, Inc.
1900 L Street, Suite 505
Washington, DC 20036-5049
(Phone: 202-296-2528)

If your state wishes to participate in the voluntary WRIS2 exchange, please return the Data Sharing Agreement with the SUIA and PACIA signatures by **November 30, 2011**. ETA then will execute the Agreement that your state has signed and will return to you a fully signed copy of the document for your records.

Should you have any questions about WRIS2, or the WRIS, please do not hesitate to contact Kate Louton by phone (202-693-2745) or e-mail (Louton.kathryn@dol.gov); or Karen Staha (Staha.karen@dol.gov; 202.693.2917) in the Division of Strategic Planning and Performance.

Sincerely,

Michael Jones

Michael S. Jones
Acting Administrator
Office of Policy Development and Research
Employment and Training Administration
U.S. Department of Labor
200 Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20210
202-693-2730
Jones.michael@dol.gov