

PY2015

WORKFORCE AND INFORMATION CORE PRODUCTS
AND SERVICES

PERFORMANCE REPORT

Timothy O. Kestner, Director
Economic Information & Analytics Division
Virginia Employment Commission

Virginia

Workforce Information Grant, PY 2015

PROGRESS REPORT

Program Year 2015 Employment and Training Administration (ETA) funds were used to develop essential state and local Labor Market Information (LMI) products and services. More specifically, these funds were used to accomplish the eight core deliverables and activities as described below. The principal users of this information are the Virginia Board of Workforce Development, Local Workforce Development Boards (LWDBs), One-Stop centers, VEC field offices, job seekers, employers, educators, counselors, students, economic developers, government agencies, the Virginia Advisor for Workforce Development, local chambers of commerce, veterans, and others. These organizations use this information for planning and developing workforce strategies; assisting clients with career, education, and training choices; and formulating policy decisions.

During the past year, Virginia expended all of PY 2014 carryover funds as of September 2015, and expended all but \$140,150 of PY 2015 grant money which is carried over to PY 2016. Most of those expenditures were personnel costs.

The activities, products, services, and major accomplishments that stemmed from these grant funds, as well as other funds, can be found on our website (<http://www.VirginiaLMI.com>) and are described below.

1. Workforce Information Database (WIDb)

In PY 2015, we continued to update and improve our business intelligence systems. We transitioned from using the 2.5 version of the WID to using the 2.6.1 version of the WID. This involved creating new database tables, deprecating old/redundant tables, and converting existing data to fit the new table layouts.

For PY 2015, two of the data sets we improved were our state income and our annual population estimates. We had been unable to update these data sets for several years due to the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) and Census Bureau website changes in addition to changes to the individual table layouts. After making the necessary table layout changes and locating the appropriate data files using the National Crosswalk Service Center, we were able to update Virginia's BEA Total Income and Per Capita Income annually through 2015. Furthermore, we were able to update the annual population estimates for numerous geographies including metropolitan statistical areas, workforce development areas, and counties through 2015. We will continue to update both the state income and annual population data sets annually.

Also in PY 2015 we continued to use the Local Employment & Wage Information System or LEWIS (previously known as the Estimates Delivery System or EDS) to help us meet our requirement for populating the iowage (formerly oeswage) table in the WID. LEWIS not only helps us meet this requirement, it allows us to develop OES wage data for geographies not covered under the core BLS program. These geographies include our workforce development areas, planning regions,

congressional districts, Virginia community college regions, etc. Every year our customers look to us to provide local wage data for these custom regions.

We will continue to update “core tables” with the latest information at various levels for which the data is available, as well as some non-core tables. Data included:

- a. Monthly updates to the following tables in the WID database:
 - Current Employment Statistics—ces
 - Labor Force—labforce
 - Consumer Price Index—cpi
 - Local option sales tax—tax
 - Unemployment insurance claims data—uiclaims
 - Unemployment benefits paid—benefits
- b. Quarterly and annual updates of Quarterly Census of Employment and Wage (QCEW) data
- c. Semi-annual updates to the Infogroup employer database
- d. Annual and bi-annual updates of the Short and Long-Term Industry/Occupation projections
- e. Annual updates of OES/SOC-based wage data for all available levels
- f. Updates of the latest LEHD OnTheMap commuting patterns data

2. Industry and Occupational Employment Projections

- **Long-Term Projections:** Virginia produced industry and occupational employment projections to 2024 for the State, using calendar year 2014 as the base year. The VEC is in the process of producing industry and occupational employment projections to 2024 for all Workforce Development Areas (WDAs) in the state; these projections should be completed by the end of calendar 2015. The projections were produced using the methodology, software, tools, and guidelines developed by the Projections Consortium. As required, Virginia populated the WID and submitted the state long-term data for public dissemination and will do the same with the substate long-term projections.
- **Short-Term Projections:** Virginia produced the state-level, short-term industry and occupational projections for the 2015 to 2017 period. As with the long-term projections, Virginia used the methodology, software, tools, and guidelines developed by the Projections Consortium. Virginia populated the WID and submitted the short-term data for public dissemination.

3. Annual Economic Analysis and Other Reports

Annual Economic Analysis

- The *Virginia Economic Indicators* is a quarterly publication with an analysis of the U.S. economy as well as an analysis of the state and metropolitan areas. Key economic indicators including employment, unemployment, production workers’ hours and earnings, and other significant business related data series are illustrated and analyzed. The Governor, Local Workforce Development Boards (LWDBs), and other workforce associates use the economic analyses in this publication to form policy and workforce decisions. Enhancements were adopted in the latter half of PY 2015 that reduces the production time, thus making the publication timelier. We also enhanced this

publication to give it a more updated look.

(<http://virginialmi.com/content/pdfs/Indicators - 2nd qrt 2016.pdf>)

- The ***Virginia Business Indicators*** is a quarterly publication illustrating and analyzing the business cycle of the state and metropolitan areas. Key business indicators such as taxable retail sales, deflated taxable retail sales, single family building permits, new business incorporations, and new vehicle registrations are included.
(<http://virginialmi.com/content/pdfs/Economic Business Indicators-2nd qrt.pdf>)

New Reports and Products on the Internet ([VirginiaLMI.com](http://virginialmi.com))

- The ***Virginia Jobs Profile*** is a quarterly publication we began producing in 2nd quarter of 2015 that provides a snapshot of employment by industry in Virginia and the quarterly year-over-year employment change. (<http://virginialmi.com/content/pdfs/Virginia Jobs Profile-1st qrt 2016.pdf>)
- The ***Virginia Labor Force Metrics at a Glance*** is a monthly publication we began producing in October, 2015 that provides a snapshot of the most recent unemployment rate for Virginia and the U.S. as well as a historical graphic representation of Virginia's unemployment rate, labor force, labor force participation rate, employment and unemployment. In addition, a historical graphic representation of Virginia's initial claims, continued claims, average duration, and exhaustion rate along with bullet points for each is also shown.
(<http://virginialmi.com/content/pdfs/LFMetrix-July.pdf>)
- The ***Unemployment Rates by Local Workforce Development Area*** is a monthly publication we began producing in December, 2015 that gives unemployment rates for each of Virginia's seventeen Local Workforce Development Areas overlaid on a map of the state. The graphic also contrasts total employment with unemployment for each region.
(<http://virginialmi.com/content/pdfs/Unemployment Rates by WDA-July 2016.pdf>)
- The ***Characteristics of the Insured Unemployed*** is a monthly publication we began producing in December, 2015 that provides a snapshot of the characteristics of the individuals who have received unemployment benefits. Characteristics include: gender, race/ethnicity, age groups, education groups, veterans vs. non-veterans, and the occupation (SOC) in which the individual was formerly employed.
(<http://virginialmi.com/content/pdfs/Characteristics of Unemployed-July 2016.pdf>)
- The ***Characteristics of the Newly Registered Job Seeker*** is a monthly publication we began producing in February, 2016 that provides a snapshot of the characteristics of the individuals who have registered with the Virginia Workforce Connection's website. Characteristics include: gender, race/ethnicity, age groups, education groups, veterans vs. non-veterans, and the top occupation with the largest number of job seekers.
(<http://virginialmi.com/content/pdfs/Characteristics of Job Seekers-July 2016.pdf>)
- The ***Virginia LMI Career and Labor Market News*** is a quarterly publication we began producing in 1st quarter of 2016 that provides information on state labor market analysis, job tips, and career planning. (<http://virginialmi.com/content/pdfs/2016 CALQ-2.pdf>)
- The ***Virginia Distribution of Nonfarm Employment from 1950 – 2015*** is an annual publication we began producing in 2016 that visually illustrates historical nonfarm

employment and service industry employment.

([http://virginalmi.com/content/pdfs/Distribution of Employment 2015.pdf](http://virginalmi.com/content/pdfs/Distribution%20of%20Employment%202015.pdf))

- **Social Media** – We have enhanced our existing Twitter page and we have created an LMI Facebook page that we regularly update.
- **Virginia LMI Website Highlight Video** – We added a video to our LMI home page that provides an overview of our website and guides viewers to some of the most popular links on our website.

Existing Reports and Products on the Internet (VirginiaLMI.com)

- The ***Virginia Snapshot*** is a monthly publication that provides a quick overview of Virginia employment and population data. We recently enhanced this publication to give it a more updated design that would work on mobile devices.
- ***2014 Occupational Employment Wage Data*** for the state, 13 Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs), 15 WIAs, 21 Planning Regions (PDCs), 23 Virginia Community College Regions, and 4 state regions is available on our website. Entry level, mean, median, and experienced wage data by occupation is presented as well as employment data.
- The ***Community Profiles*** are available for all Virginia area types (the state; 11 MSAs; 15 WIAs; Congressional Districts; 134 counties and cities; 23 Virginia Community College Regions; and 21 Planning Regions). The *Profiles* contain economic and demographic data in text and graphic formats. The information is updated automatically when new data is available.
 - Demographic Profile: population by age, race/ethnicity and gender; population change; population projections by age and gender and by race/ethnicity; English language skills, commuting patterns
 - Economic Profile: unemployment rates; characteristics of the insured unemployed; unemployment insurance payments; employment by size of establishment; employers by size of establishment; 50 largest employers; employment by industry; new startup firms; new hires by industry; turnover by industry; average weekly wage by industry; age of workers by industry; long-term and short-term industry employment projections; long-term and short-term occupational employment projections; growth occupations; declining occupations; consumer price index; local option sales tax
 - Education Profile: educational attainment by age, gender, and race/ethnicity; graduate data trends; training providers
- The following three **posters**, developed several years ago and periodically updated, are still in demand:
 - ***Qualities Needed for Success in the Workplace***—lists the skills needed for success in the workplace.

- *Visualize Starting Your Own Business*—lists traits generally associated with entrepreneurs.
- *Interview Tips*—contains tips for making interviewing successful.
- **Bookmark:** *High School Graduate vs. High School Dropout*. A handy reminder for students and clients about the benefits of staying in school or going back to school, this bookmark compares the employment and earnings outlook for a high school graduate versus a high school dropout. The information on the bookmark is updated annually.
- The **Pocket Résumé** is a multi-fold card that fits in a wallet or pocket to be used when going on job searches and interviews. One side of the résumé has tips for going on interviews, and the other side has places to put personal information.
- The *Virginia Job Outlook* brochure lists job growth and wages for high growth occupations by education levels: bachelor's degree or higher; associate's degree, technical training, or work experience; and at least moderate on-the-job training, as well as occupations that are declining.
- *Top Fifty Employers* for each county, city, MSA, Planning Region, Virginia Community College Region and WIA and the state of Virginia are available on our website. One of the most frequently requested LMI products. Data is updated quarterly.
- Responded to hundreds of **LMI-related inquiries, prepared media releases, and produced webinars.**
 - The Labor Market and Demographic Analysis (LMDA) staff continually answers numerous calls and responds to requests for labor market and census information and orders for publications. LMDA personnel also provide technical support to WIBs, economic developers, planners, economists, public and private sector agencies and businesses, and private citizens.
 - The unemployment press release is made available to the public through e-mailings, twitter, and access to our website. Each month the unemployment rate, employment information, current employment statistics, and consumer price index are updated and released to the public as soon as the federal embargo allows.
 - Recorded LMI webinars primarily aimed at WIB, one-stop, and field office staff are available on our website.
- The quarterly **FORUM newsletter** continues to be a high-demand item. This quarterly newsletter is aimed at helping teachers, counselors, students, and jobseekers. It contains articles highlighting recent developments in labor market and occupational activities in Virginia.
- The *Career Guide 4 Virginia* contains information on training and education, financial aid, job search, applying for a job, interviewing, and budgeting. This publication is available in both a printed and electronic version.

- ***Exploring Your Future! A Guide to Career Possibilities*** is a guidebook that is designed to help students in Grades 6-8 learn the basics about careers, such as how to research and choose a career, and what to do to prepare for a future career. Its main purpose is to make students aware of the career opportunities available to them in their future.
- The ***Labor Market Information Brochure*** gives an overview of the Virginia Labor Market Information website, which is a powerful online labor market tool specifically designed to connect researchers, economists, job seekers, students, employers, training providers, veterans, workforce professionals, and others seeking to explore local labor markets in Virginia to helpful and current information.
- The ***STEM*** brochure provides labor market information in the fields of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics. The brochure shows the largest STEM occupations by education along with employment and wage data as well as the top high growth STEM occupations.
- ***Industry Profiles*** are available for the following: All Industries; Mining; Construction; Manufacturing; Retail Trade; Finance and Insurance; Real Estate; Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services; Administrative and Waste Services; Educational Services; Health Care and Social Assistance; Arts and Entertainment; Accommodations and Food; Miscellaneous Services; Federal Government; State Government; and Local Government. The reports provide information by detailed NAICs on the number of establishments as well as employment and wages for the State and by locality for some of the data. The Manufacturing Industry Report is updated annually and is produced in collaboration with the Virginia Manufacturers Association. These profiles have been enhanced to include more industries and to expedite data updates.
- The ***Employment and Wages by Industry and Area*** reports show employment and wages by industry and by area for the following areas: United States, Virginia, MSAs, and Micropolitan Statistical Areas. The data within the reports come from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) program. This product is updated as the QCEW data becomes available.
- Virginia continues to be a member of the **Local Employment Dynamics (LED)** partnership. We currently include LED data in several of our publications. Links to QWI Explorer, LED Extraction Tool, and OnTheMap are available on our website. LED data is now the source for commuting pattern data. The VEC regularly attends the national meeting.
- ***Long-term Industry and Occupational Employment Projections*** for the state, WIAs and U.S. are available in electronic format on Virginia Workforce Connection. Data on the average annual number of job openings by occupation due to growth and separation is available, as well as estimated and projected employment. High-growth industries and occupations by area are also available.
- ***Short-term Industry and Occupational Employment Projections*** for the state are available in electronic format on Virginia Workforce Connection. Estimated employment, projected employment, and annual average openings due to growth and replacements by occupation are displayed. High-growth industries and occupations by area are also available.

- The following **information sheets**, developed several years ago and periodically updated, are still in demand:
 - *Top Skills and Work Values Employers Want*
 - *Education Pays...*
 - *Eight Keys to Employability*
 - *Sample Job Application*
 - *Tomorrow's Jobs*
- Updated **census tract maps**, using 2010 geography, are produced for use in the Areas of Substantial Unemployment (ASU) program. Maps are produced for both individual localities (counties and independent cities), and Workforce Investment Areas.
- A map showing **Virginia Targeted Employment Areas** as well as census tract labor force statistics for use in the Federal EB-5 Program are available. Resources for viewing and understanding Virginia's targeted employment areas and excel worksheets on employment and unemployment labor force statistics for Virginia's Census Tracts (updated with census tract data for FY 2105) are provided.
- ***The Long-Term Unemployed in Virginia*** is a study that examines the impact of the Great Recession on labor markets. The study details the characteristics of the unemployed and the long-term unemployed in the Virginia unemployment insurance system and examines the macroeconomic factors that are driving a persistently high unemployment rate. The VEC contracted with the Thomas Jefferson Public Policy Department at The College of William and Mary to conduct this study.
- ***Commonwealth of Virginia Job Vacancy Survey 2011 - 2012*** is a report that provides insight into the labor needs and skill shortages in key regions across Virginia; allows for the comparison of employment benefits and compensation within and across industries and occupations; and identifies industries and occupations that are most likely to have job openings. The VEC partnered with the Virginia Center for Urban Development and the Survey and Evaluation Research Laboratory at Virginia Commonwealth University to develop and administer the Job Vacancy Survey. This report continues to be used by a variety of workforce professionals.
- ***Historical Current Employment Statistics*** show historical trends in employment hours and earnings for Virginia and Metropolitan Areas. The data within the reports comes from the Current Employment Statistics (CES) program.
- ***Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages*** are printable reports that offer detailed industry data down to the 3-digit NAICS level for Virginia and all of its localities. There are bookmarks embedded in each PDF that will help you navigate the document within your Adobe Acrobat Reader.

Website Use (July 1, 2015-June 30, 2016): We use Google Analytics on our website to help us track how many people are using the LMI resources. Below is a summary of the statistics.

Visits	68,363
Unique Visitors	47,441
Pageviews	477,723
Pages / Visit	6.9
Avg. Visit Duration	00:04:43

Rank	Page	Views	% Page Views
1	LMI Home page	68,382	14.31%
2	Employer Profile	19,872	4.16%
3	Community Profiles	14,464	3.03%
4	Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW)	11,213	2.35%
5	Labor Force Employment and Unemployment (LAUS)	10,055	2.10%

4. Customer Consultations

The dedicated and highly professional Labor Market Information staff works with Virginia Community College System (VCCS) staff, VEC Workforce Services staff, Virginia Board of Workforce Development, Governor’s office staff, county governments, and local workforce development boards to identify and provide needed LMI information and support for strategic planning, responding to federal, state, and local initiatives. The staff provides on-line and in person training to WIB and One-Stop staff, as well as to a large number of employers, and will provide appropriate information upon request.

Staff regularly interacts and supports our workforce partners through their participation and attendance at job fairs, seminars, conferences, and various meetings, including Virginia Board of Workforce Development meetings and committee meetings as well as employer advisory council meetings. Consultation with our workforce partners is on an on-going basis throughout the year. We discuss labor market information, special data sets, new products, improved delivery systems, and what products are needed. Hence, our products and services are improved upon continuously in response to suggestions from workforce partners or availability of new systems. The VEC annually renews its Memorandum of Understanding with VCCS to update and provide LMI offerings on an ongoing basis.

The VEC is a participant in the Virginia Longitudinal Data System (VLDS) along with eight other data-oriented state agencies, and the LMI Director sits on the research committee. Cross-agency data is used to conduct targeted research. The U.S. Department of Education grant has created solid partnerships, resource sharing, and collaborative research across state workforce and education agencies and university partners. Collaborative funding is an important aspect of this effort.

The VEC was an integral participant in Virginia’s Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Implementation Team, providing input for the new WIOA Combined State Plan that was submitted in the spring of 2016. We are working with our workforce partners to establish common performance measures across twenty-four workforce programs in the Commonwealth. Our workforce and labor market information system provides necessary information about employment, jobs, and workers to our greater workforce partners for use in decision-making and policy planning. We provide data and guidance to ensure that our workforce partners accomplish their mission.

The VEC, in partnership with the Secretary of Commerce and Trade, has conducted the Employer Workforce Development Survey to learn about employer workforce needs at businesses and government offices across the state. Learning about employer workforce needs, the education, skills, and training needed to fill them, and the salary and wages provided, will help the Commonwealth better prepare to deliver and coordinate workforce development services. The Virginia Employment Commission (VEC) worked with the Virginia Chamber of Commerce and the Center for Urban and Regional Analysis (CURA) at Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU), in Richmond, to administer this survey. The survey was completed, a paper written, presentations were made, and the paper along with an appendix is available on the LMI website at: https://virginialmi.com/content/pdfs/VEC%202016_FINAL June%2020.pdf.
https://virginialmi.com/content/pdfs/VEC%202016_Appendix_FINAL June20.pdf.

5. Activities Undertaken to Meet Customer Needs

In January 2014, Virginia’s Governor required workforce agencies (24 in Virginia) to produce a Workforce Development Plan for Virginia. Further, he released an Executive Directive (Executive Order 23) requiring the completion of nine action items by the public workforce system. The actions support the following goal: “identify, increase, and accelerate the availability of a workforce ready to fill middle-skill jobs to sustain and attract businesses and ensure economic growth by driving workforce credentials that matter to jobs attainment.” The VEC continues to be heavily involved in several of these action items.

Virginia continues to support the National Governors Association’s (NGA) Policy Academy to enhance and promote partnerships across the workforce spectrum. The focus of the Academy is to better prepare Americans to work in the new economy through improved postsecondary education and workforce training aligned to the needs of employers and evolving state economies. Our LMI unit is working with the Virginia Community College System, the Council for Virginia’s Future, and the Virginia Board for Workforce Development to achieve the following outcomes: enhance our data system to better answer questions regarding value of certifications and licensures; develop a LMI system that incorporates data about new types of workforce credentials; and plan for a system to record and report on certifications.

The VEC provides **Quarterly Census of Employment & Wages (QCEW) employer listings** to governmental agencies and entities, through the **Data Share Agreement** process. A Data Share Agreement is a required, signed, binding agreement between the VEC and the requesting governmental agencies or entity, which protects the confidentiality of the QCEW employer data.

Data Share Agreements & OCEW Employer Listings provided: 7/1/15 – 6/30/15

Agency	Number of Requests	Total Invoice
Arlington County CPHD	1	0
Arlington Dept of Community Planning, Housing & Development	6	4,050
Arlington Economic Development	1	450
City of Chesapeake	2	0
City of Danville	1	450
City of Hampton	3	900
City of Newport News Economic Development	1	450
City of Portsmouth	1	450
Fairfax County Department of Planning & Zoning	2	0
Franklin County Economic Development	1	450
Hampton Roads Economic Development Alliance	1	450
Henrico County Dept of Community Revitalization	2	900
Lenowisco Planning District Commission	5	1,350
Loudoun County Economic Development	1	450
Martinsville-Henry Co Economic Dev Corp	1	450
Metro Washington Council of Governments	1	450
Norfolk City Dept of Economic Development	1	450
Orange County Economic Development	1	450
Roanoke Regional Partnership	1	450
Secretary of Commerce and Trade	3	900
Town of Leesburg	1	450
VCU Virginia Center for Urban & Analysis	1	0
Virginia Dept of Environmental Quality	1	450
Virginia Dept of Housing & Community Development	5	1,800
Virginia Economic Development Partnership	6	2,700
Virginia Tourism Authority	8	900
Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service, UVA	1	450
William & Mary, Mason School of Business	1	450
Winchester-Frederick Co. Economic Development Commission	15	6,750

Meetings, Presentations, and Webinars:

Richmond Employer Conference, 12/7/15, LMI presentation, 125 attendees
 Roanoke Employer Conference, 6/11/15, LMI presentation, 20 attendees
 GED Advisory Committee, LMI presentation, 8/14/15, 20 attendees
 Va Secretary of Commerce & Trade, LMI presentation, 8/18/15, 20 attendees
 Virginia Board of Workforce Development, Winter Quarterly Meeting, Employment and Labor Force Conditions, 12/3/15
 Grant Writers Conference, LMI presentation, 9/29/15, 50 attendees
 Va Dept. of Blind and Hearing Impaired, 2/9/16, LMI presentation, 50 attendees
 IARP Counselor Conference, 4/14/16, LMI presentation, 50 attendees
 Chesapeake Employer Conference, 5/11/16, 2 LMI presentations, 100 attendees each
 PEER John Tyler CC, LMI presentation, 9/16/16, 75 attendees
 Stafford County Fall 2015 Economic Forum, Local Employment and Labor Force Presentation
 Va Secretary of Commerce & Trade, 6/20/16, Employer's Survey results and presentation, 20 attendees
 Demand Occupations Taskforce Meeting, 3/18/16, Richmond, Va,
 Demand Occupations Taskforce Meeting, 5/2/16, Lynchburg, Va,

Virginia Board of Workforce Development subcommittee, 6/23/16, Employer's Survey results and presentation, 10 attendees

6. *New Tools and Resources*

- ***Summary Analysis of Virginia 2015 and 2014 Benchmark Revisions of Nonagricultural Employment and Unemployment*** analyzed the benchmark revisions of employment by industry for the state and metropolitan statistical areas as well as the revisions to unemployment. This analysis was presented in the *Virginia Economic Indicators*, 4th Quarter 2015.
- ***High Priority Demand Occupations***. A methodology was developed through a collaborative effort from Va. agencies and the Richmond Federal Reserve bank that utilizes data from the long-term projections program and OES program data to determine high growth and high paying jobs. The results were presented to a subcommittee of the Virginia Board of Workforce Development.
- ***In Development***...Micro Profiles publication, multiple jobs holders data, post claimant analysis, aging of employment data...

7. *Efforts to Create and Support Partnerships and Collaborations*

The Virginia Employment Commission is the designated authority in the state of Virginia to certify Targeted Employment Areas (TEAs) for the EB-5 Investor Visa Program. The EB-5 Investor Visa Program was created by Congress in 1990 for aliens to immigrate to the United States for the purpose of employment. Targeted Employment Areas (TEAs) are census tracts or combination of census tracts that have unemployment rates of 150 percent or higher of the national unemployment rate. The program encourages investment in rural (non-metropolitan) areas, or high unemployment areas. Using federal guidelines, the Virginia Employment Commission analyzes proposed areas and provides certification letters, if rural or high unemployment criteria are met.

The Virginia Employment Commission provides senior staffing support to the Virginia Board of Workforce Development.

In addition, the following activities create and support partnerships and collaborations and are described in more detail in section 4 and 5.

- Partnering with the Governor's office, Virginia Board of Workforce Development, and state agencies to fulfill Executive Order 23 and to complete a Workforce Development Plan for Virginia.
- An active participant and partner in the National Governors Association's Policy Academy—the New Virginia Economy.

- Working with various groups, both state and national, on veteran employment issues.

8. *Activities to Leverage LMI-WI Funding*

- Ongoing MOU with VCCS to update and provide LMI offerings.
- Data share agreements to provide geocoded employer listings by various substate geographies.
- Active participant in U.S. DOE grant that is funding the Virginia Longitudinal Data system.

9. *Recommendations*

No recommendations.