

BRAINSTORMING TOPIC #1:**Using data more effectively to advance key policy goals.**

- How to help the unemployed find a job.
- How to better fund the LMI system at the federal, state, and local government levels.
- Providing local workforce development board with useful information as they determine their funding priorities.
- Better funding to track skilled trades workers, apprentices, and journey-workers.
- How to better connect employers directly to skilled labor.
- Assist job seekers with career planning.
- Help employers find the talent they need.
- How to tell the story of why LMI is important to a variety of stakeholders like Congress and other appropriators and funders.
- Using LMI information in collaboration with private employers and industry databases.
- How to better utilize the community survey information to find those who are unemployed but seeking employment.

BRAINSTORMING TOPIC #1:**Using data more effectively to advance key policy goals.**

- Importance of vacancy surveys.
- Provide useful WLMI data where feasible for small geographic areas like rural counties.
- Interagency data sharing.
- Finding a way at the federal level to collectively enhance administrative records with demographic data.
- Transition from separate education and workforce systems into a singular integrated system.
- Integrate WLMI in our school systems to address the shrinking workforce.
- Reform the system to be more responsive, local, and actionable.
- Reduce redundancy in data collection between WLMI and other federal statistical services.
- Support joint problem solving across states.

BRAINSTORMING TOPIC #1:**Using data more effectively to advance key policy goals.**

- Provide clear examples of how LMI data can be used to support key legislative actions – e.g., CHIPS and Science; Infrastructure and Jobs; Inflation Reduction Act all identify workforce and quality jobs as high priority – so focus on measuring job quality using e.g., UI wage records and QCEW.
- Since the focus of the policies are largely local and regional, and time sensitive, build up the networks of state labor market agencies so that they can directly respond at the local level and learn what works from each other (since, as Brandeis said, states are the laboratories of democracy).
- Build training classes to teach state agency staff how to create useful measures – e.g., job quality – using the regional state collaboratives.
- Connect to other agencies – e.g., Department of Education (particularly the SLDS), NSF, HHS – through the WIG vehicle, since the mission of other agencies are often key policy drivers for using labor market information.
- Play to the strengths of the data - e.g., creative ways to show how federal investments in R&D affect local labor markets (e.g., <https://new.nsf.gov/tip/updates/nsf-pilot-assess-impact-strategic-investments-regional-jobs>).

BRAINSTORMING TOPIC #2:

Identifying opportunities for and overcoming barriers to increased data sharing.

- Develop Model DSAs between agencies/systems.
- The confluence of state and federal statute and interpretation.
- Identify best practices of data sharing between states and between agencies and other organizations.
- This has been a topic since the inception of WIAC. What progress has been made so far and what are the biggest hurdles?
- Identify conflicts in federal law that could inform modernization of data sharing.
- Awareness of data that already exists and how to access available data.
- Need to examine federal and state law confidentiality.
- Federal laws that are interpreted by lawyers as prohibiting data-sharing.
- Identify common questions/problems that states and federal government want to answer using LMI data.
- Perceived and Real Risk.

BRAINSTORMING TOPIC #2:

Identifying opportunities for and overcoming barriers to increased data sharing.

- Utilize secure repositories to allow safe data merging and research.
- Federally leveraged partnerships to obviate those risks.
- Allowing private sector partners with government to share data both ways while balancing the concern of monetizing government data.
- Best practices and examples of successes to generate interest and enthusiasm.
- Maintaining protections of individual level data while broadening ability to share data in de-identified manners.
- Marketing effort to share the technologies that allow safe and secure data sharing and matching.
- Data sharing must be value driven. So, identify policy driven reasons for data sharing.
- Secure enclaves like the Administrative Data Research Facility at Coleridge.
- Tiered access modalities.
- Make use of the National Secure Data Service authorized in CHIPS and Science.

BRAINSTORMING TOPIC #3:

Improving access to and presentation of data for customers.

- Promote development of common products that can be easily replicated and deployed by others.
- Is it worthwhile to try and replicate what companies such as JobsEQ and LightCast provide?
- Better connect LMI data with social service data to better gauge social impact.
- Different views of data by differing data user needs.
- Tools such as Tableau make it easier to visualize.
- Data visualizations that help tell a story to specific stakeholder perspectives.
- Develop 508 compliance training and guides to ensure visualizations are available for all.
- Provide useful background information and user instructions for data users with varied skill levels for the laity.
- Enhance the ease of access for data users with varied skill levels.
- Develop a more explicit feedback loop for those who provide data and show them value proposition.

BRAINSTORMING TOPIC #3:**Improving access to and presentation of data for customers.**

- Searchable pages that allow for the public to do ad hoc reporting and data visualizations on their own.
- Brief members of the press about what the data means and does not mean.
- Enhance the ability to download data seamlessly and easily.
- Create GenAI-based interface for interacting with data to answer questions.
- Integrate with “reality check” tools that help contextualize data around things like Self-Sufficient Wage levels.
- Share successful programs, policies, and data more accessible; web-based.
- Mine the use of tools to identify where people seem to give up or get stuck to refine the tools and improve usability.
- Statistical significance / confidence intervals for ‘out on a limb’ vendor data.
- Continuous survey of customers, including employers, workers/claimants, and policy makers.
- Better tools to understand and distinguish in-demand, high skill, high wage data as states determine alignment of credentials with jobs.
- We are getting asked about this and the relative household information that influences what we call high wage jobs.

BRAINSTORMING TOPIC #4:

Expanding and improving the currency and relevance of data on skills.

- Employer validated skills taxonomy (like SkillsEngine.org).
- Develop a system for identifying changes in skill demands and identifying emerging skills to help education/training better meet changing demands.
- Tie into credential data.
- Identify best practices of how skills data has been effectively used to assist individuals and employers.
- Identify the challenges/ limitations of gathering and using skills data to ensure data users are appropriately aware of the limitations.
- Skills data in an easy to use and understandable way for students to make informed decisions about their career planning.
- Create more uniform standards to understand what skills are attributed to credentials, like how skills from apprenticeships are well-established.
- Improved communication and data collection across apprenticeship programs, community colleges and trade/career centers.
- AI or big data on large databases like the NLX are the way to go here. Too many, many-to-many relationships in mapping KSA.

BRAINSTORMING TOPIC #4:

Expanding and improving the currency and relevance of data on skills.

- Finding patterns between Classification of Instructional Programs (degrees/trainings) and KSA.
- Better access to/integration of National Student Clearinghouse data.
- Explore how LMI data can inform training and growing industries (climate/sustainability, AI).
- How do we better incorporate non-traditional worker populations into skills discussion (re-entry, disabled, retirees, etc.) and into LMI data more broadly.
- Are there more global standards to skills that we should be incorporating so U.S. workers are globally competitive?
- Examine the status of testing to determine skills. Are employer demands being met?
- Tie to education non-completer information and compare earnings and employment duration of completers to non-completers.
- Should we consider how states vary in licensing requirements so that skills are more portable from state to state?
- Build on state-to-state reciprocal licensing agreements.

BRAINSTORMING TOPIC #5: Other Topics

- How do we convey the negative impact of privacy preserving technologies on data utility - e.g., differential privacy on LEHD?
- How do we get direct information on how data is used?
- How do we use existing data sources to enhance existing data or create new useful data tools (i.e., Longitudinal Employer-Household Dynamics)?
- Title 12 is a big hurdle for full integration across the broader WLMI partnership (USDOL/Census...).
- Ability to follow people, like college students and retirees, as they move out of state. Do they work? Do they move back? This impacts labor force planning.
- Develop and promote Enhanced Wage Records - Settle for GOOD, not PERFECT. Ensure we can show return on investment (ROI) build support.
- Explore (unenforced) federal rule or law to require survey participation to improve response rate (i.e., OEWS).
- Integrating OEWS in collecting occupational codes as part of the unemployment insurance administrative records system.
- How to balance additional reporting requirements to employers with the value of additional data gathered to LMI system.
- Increase Evidence-building Capacity.

BRAINSTORMING TOPIC #5: Other Topics

- Improve data literacy.
- How are the WIAC's recommendations used?
- How do we raise the level of awareness and understanding of available WLMI data among employers, economic developers, academic researchers, etc.?
- Related to non-traditional populations, how do we better capture self-employed and GIG workers into LMI data collection/system?
- Identify ways to modernize, harmonize federal privacy standards.
- Create several Standard Eco-Devo reports that can be replicated in all states to improve user experience for multi-state employers.
- How do we get more timely, local, and actionable labor market information data?
- Increase skills transferability of military personnel and spouses to smooth transitioning into civilian workforce and/or transfer of duty station.
- How are Sovereign Nations (Tribes) different from State and Local?
- Gather direct data on how workers are faring by communicating directly with the American worker.
- How can we clearly differentiate the quality of statistical data and methodologies versus "grab and go" data produced by the private sector?