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March 11, 2022

VIA EMAIL

Daniel Ellzey, Director
South Carolina Department of Employment and Workforce
1550 Gadsden Street
P.O. Box 995
Columbia, SC 29202
dellzey@dew.sc.gov; dcrotwell@dew.sc.gov; aemorgan@dew.sc.gov

RE: Legislative Oversight Study

Dear Director Ellzey:

The Economic Development, Transportation, and Natural Resources Subcommittee appreciates the agency's partnership in the oversight process. Based on information provided during the subcommittee meeting on education and workforce development, various members request answers to the following questions be gathered.

1. Please provide the number of unemployed individuals and open positions, by education level and region of the state, at the following times:
 - a. February 2019
 - b. February 2020
 - c. February 2021
 - d. August 2021

2. Please provide a list of the data fields the agency maintains on each business in the state and, for each, any limitations in how that information can be shared.
3. Please explain the State Wage Interchange System (SWIS) and benefits of using it.¹
4. Please explain the Federal Employment Data Exchange System (FEDES) and benefits of using it
5. Please explain information available to DEW, and any limitations on that information, as it relates to industry and occupational categories and codes.² Also, please explain information available to DEW at the NAICS sub-sector levels, if any, and additional clarification that information may provide in analysis.
6. Please provide North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) codes, to the lowest subsector possible, to RFA now, and going forward.
7. Please explain ideas for how information maintained by entities like Commerce, DEW, Department of Education, and federal agencies can be aligned to provide cohesive data on types of industries, companies, and/or occupations recruited by Commerce, those in demand in the state, career clusters in individualized graduation plans, etc. (e.g., NAICS industry codes or subgroups, Standard Occupational Codes, etc.)
8. What information was researched to conduct the 2017 study that determined the information about S.C. college graduates related to (1) percentage found working in S.C. one- and five-years post-graduation, (2) annual earnings, (3) median earnings one- and five-years post-graduation, and (4) industry of employment one- and 5-years post-graduation?³
9. Please provide information on the percentage of unemployed individuals that have one or more the barriers to employment the agency listed in the WIOA State Plan (e.g., Juvenile Offenders; Homelessness; Veterans; Ex-Offenders; Low-Income; Individuals with Disabilities).⁴
10. Are there any prohibitions to co-enrollment among not only federal funded, but also state funded programs?⁵

¹ See page 62 of WIOA State Plan

² State WIOA plan speaks to occupational categories and provides statistics by occupational category (see Current and Future Employment By Occupation Section starting on page 14, which includes a chart with Total number employed, hourly mean wage, and hourly median wage by occupational title). However DEW's response in the 2.22.22 letter from CCWD seems to imply it may not be possible to obtain accurate information on occupations, only industry types ("While the wage records could provide the industry of the employer for which the individual is employed, state law does not currently require businesses to report occupation information within their quarterly reports. So, while it would be possible to tell if the individual were working in a business that is in the manufacturing industry, it would not be possible determine (using DEW wage records) if the individual was employed in a manufacturing occupation. According to national estimates from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, nearly half of all individuals who work within the manufacturing industry work in "non-production" occupation including: transportation, management, engineering, etc.")

³ See page 30 of WIOA State Plan

⁴ See page 28-30 of the WIOA State Plan

⁵ The federal instructions for the WIOA State Plan appear to encourage the ability of individuals to co-enroll in more than one program to assist them in getting skills and employment.

11. Please explain the supply gap analysis mentioned by personnel during the Subcommittee meeting including, analysis performed in the past, benefits it provides, why there is a need for another analysis now or on a regular basis, and who may be appropriate to perform such an analysis.
12. To allow the General Assembly and public to access information related to multiple agencies in a single location, would your agency be willing to contact the Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office (RFA) and provide information necessary for RFA to create and regularly update, through data sharing, maps applicable to your agency? Below is a list of initial maps for consideration (Note: Not all will be applicable to your agency). Please include others agency leadership believes may be useful to members of the General Assembly or public.

Location/Boundaries

- a. Local Workforce Development Board Areas/Regional Workforce Advisors
- b. S.C. Works Center and Connection Point Locations
- c. Vocational Rehabilitation Facilities and Locations (e.g., job readiness training centers and other facilities)
- d. Vocational Rehabilitation Regions
- e. Commission for the Blind Office Locations
- f. Commission for the Blind Vocational Rehabilitation Office Territories
- g. Department of Veteran's Affairs Regional Modules for Service
- h. First Steps 4K Provider Locations
- i. First Steps Local Partner Office Locations
- j. Public 4K Provider Locations
- k. K-12 School Locations
- l. Local School District Boundaries
- m. SC School Report Card District Comparison
- n. Adult Education Technical Assistance Network Boundaries/Regions
- o. Technical College main and branch campus Locations
- p. Public and Private college and university (non-technical college) Locations
- q. Regional Non-Profit Economic Development Alliance Regions
- r. County Tiers for purposes of incentives
- s. Counties eligible for State Rural Development Grants
- t. Counties eligible for Appalachian Regional Commission Grants

Data by County

Following information by county:

- a. Percent of kindergartners who were
 - i. ready for school based on kindergarten readiness assessment in total and by the following: (1) in poverty; (2) race; and (3) subject
- b. Child care supply v. demand
- c. Percent of children age 0-35 months who have full immunization coverage
- d. Percent of children ages 1-5 who have received at least one preventive dental visit in past year
- e. Percent of child care providers participating in ABC Quality

13. Please state any changes that have occurred at your agency, or are planned at your agency because of the meeting with the Subcommittee (e.g., joining labor force participation rate taskforce after learning about during the meeting, etc.)
14. To determine where the same information is held by multiple agencies and, therefore, may be used to link information in the different agency systems, please provide a data dictionary for all information the agency maintains related to each of the items below.
 - a. S.C. employer
 - b. S.C. job seeker
 - c. S.C. K-12 school (public)
 - d. S.C. student
15. Please provide a list of case management and other data systems utilized by your agency and the following for each:
 - a. Does it include information on job seekers
 - b. Does it include information on employers
 - c. Does it include information on students
 - d. Does it include information on teaching entities
 - e. List of agencies with which the system can integrate data
16. What data, outside of the data currently available to your agency, may be helpful to your agency reaching potential customers, if any?
17. What data, outside of the data currently available to your agency, may be helpful to your agency in determining the results/impact your agency services are having on individuals it serves?
18. Please list all entities, other than those listed in the Education and Workforce one pager from the previous subcommittee meeting, your agency believes may be involved in the education and workforce ecosystem and role of each.
19. What topics does your agency believe may be helpful to have in a statewide unified workforce plan (e.g., marketing plan, central portal for customers to enter information through which their information could be shared with all applicable entities, etc.)?
20. What potential obstacles can your agency think of that may have to be overcome to successfully implement a statewide unified workforce plan?

Please provide responses to the questions by Friday, March 25, 2022.

The agency's responses will be posted online for transparency to the public. Accordingly, please do not provide any information that may not be posted online due to legal or contract prohibitions, that may harm the competitive advantage of the state in recruiting and retaining business, or that may jeopardize the life, health, or safety of anyone.

Director Ellzey

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In responding to these questions, please remember the Committee's expectations, which are provided in the Committee's Standard Practice 6. The Subcommittee looks forward to working collaboratively with the Department of Commerce during the oversight process. Thank you and your team for your service to the citizens of South Carolina.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bill Hixon". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a light yellow rectangular highlight.

Representative William M. "Bill" Hixon
Subcommittee Chair

cc: The Honorable Wm. Weston J. Newton
Economic Development, Transportation, and Natural Resources Subcommittee