

Project:

COVID-19 Data Sharing

Background

- COVID-19 has many local WF professionals trying to prepare and plan for an economy and workforce post-COVID-19, including employers needing workers, understanding which employers aren't re-opening, and strategizing how to help impacted workers.
- From the WF Directors association, we have heard the need for data that would assist them locally as they work with their local stakeholders to prepare for what's next. Without data, the work isn't focused and with limited resources, this must be focused.
- OWD is receiving data and information requests from all areas of the state as well as all stakeholders all trying to get access to similar data. However, they aren't sure who to send it to, so we got a shot gun approach with one request being sent to multiple people and or multiple requests for same data from multiple stakeholders. Either way, this must be cleaned up.
- Requests are also coming in asking for data with the belief that this data will assist in answering the question/issue they are trying to respond/solve, but in reality, a different set of data would be better if those processing the request had a better sense of what question/issue the stakeholder trying to solve.
- Not every local county has the capacity to take data and perform analysis on it. This will require others to try and put together data in a way that will be of value for those that have no research staff and be available to locals who will want to take the data and analyze it further.

Goal/Objective Statements

- Host information in one location
 - Ensure stakeholders know what data is available
 - Streamline/simplify process for data request submittals
 - Assistance with understanding of issue and ensure the right data is being used/sent to address the issue appropriately
 - Access to public data without request
- Prepare level of analysis on the data to be of value to areas without capacity

Recommended Strategy/Solutions

AI-1: Select and develop location for information

The majority of workforce professionals and researchers rely on the Bureau Labor Market Information (LMI) for their data needs. With this in mind, it was determined that the most effective place to house the dedicated COVID-19 data was a "special" landing page within the LMI website. Minor enhancements will need to be made to existing site in order to meet the recommended solutions identified in this plan.

AI-2: Ensure stakeholders know what data is available

It is proposed that the landing page contain a brief introduction page explaining the following:

- The type of data sets currently available with or without a data sharing agreement
- Links to those data sets currently available – public access
 - The links would contain a brief description, so the customer has a better understanding prior to their selection. Here is an example for the County Economic Profile report:
 - “The County Economic Profile report provides a trend or snapshot view of key economic indicators at the county level. Information includes employment and job posting trends, industry turnover rates, high school enrollment, local area talent, educational attainment, veteran employment estimates, civilian labor force estimates and commuting patterns, area population to jobs ratios and a profile of unemployment insurance claims. The most recent report contains indicators for calendar year 2019 and earlier. As most data in the report lag current economic events it provides useful metrics for economic conditions preceding measures to contain the spread of COVID-19. This report provides baseline data or supplemental information to recent/post-COVID-19 monthly and quarterly reports.”
- Process to request a data sharing agreement
- Process/form to complete in order to request COVID-19 related data

AI-3: Streamline/simplify process for data request submittals

To ensure that staff can better respond to requests in a timely manner, a form has been developed to assist the customer with the request process. The form is designed to have the customer detail the issue they are trying to solve. This information will assist staff with ensuring the proper data is shared/used with the customer. A draft form is attached in Figure 1: COVID-19 Data Request Form.

AI-4 Access to public data without request

AI-4A County Economic Profile

The 2nd annual County Economic Profile report is scheduled to be released July 6th, 2020. OWD launched this report for the first-time last year in July. It was well received, and it also came with an instructional guide that explained for each data set/report: “What it means”; “How to interpret”, and “Questions” the report could address. Each county gets their own custom report that contains the following sections:

- Employment % by Industry
- Employment trends
- Online job postings
- Industry turnover rates
- High School enrollments
- Local area talent
- Educational attainment

- Veteran employment
- Civilian labor force and commuting patterns
- Area population to jobs
- Profile of UI claims

The team is hopeful with the locals having had a year of this report, that the team will get feedback on additional data sets/reports that can be added to help address future programs to be implemented locally.

AI-4B COVID-19 Job Trends (prior & current)

Also scheduled to be released in early July will be a COVID-19 job trend report by county. This report will:

- Graph a snapshot at specific time intervals of the number electronic job openings prior to the “Ohio stay at home order” through the end of May
- Will show over a period of time the number of job ads, new ads and the percent change for:
 - Top employers
 - Top occupations
 - Breakdown by Industry

A draft review of this report is attached, labeled Figure 2: COVID-19 Job Trends Report.

AI-5: COVID-19 Trend comparison by Employer by UI Claimants

OWD staff are currently taking the weekly UI claimant file and trying to crossmatch this with the employer file to potentially show a trend by local employers. We plan to track unemployment claims by employer for the week of the “stay at home order” and at four and eight weeks after the order. This will give a picture of the number of employees who were filing for unemployment benefits from this local employer at three different time periods. Each county will need to set their own review and recommendation based upon this data. Assumptions, questions and local considerations will need to be made, such as:

- If the trend shows continued or increasing filing among, is the employer still operational or is it shutting down?
- If trend is reversing and there are fewer filings by employees, is the employer resuming operations?
- If the trend in filing claims is flat, does this mean employer closing doors for good or is it waiting to reopen operations, possibly because workers not wish to return either because of health concerns or because they get more on unemployment?

This trend comparison is complicated and requires effort by OWD staff to join different data sets to develop this comparison. It is currently slated for late summer for county release if the current analysis and crossmatching process is successful. It should be noted that this data for large employers that have multiple establishments through Ohio (like Amazon, Kroger, etc) can only be matched to the headquartered employer and not by site location.

AI-6: COVID-19 UI Claimant data

Currently OWD staff have been sharing weekly UI Claimant data with those Workforce Areas that have an interest in receiving the data for outreach purposes. The following table demonstrates the status by Workforce Areas regarding the weekly UI Claimant data:

Currently accepting UI Claimant data	Not receiving UI Claimant data
3 4 5 9 10 11 12 14 15 16 18 19 20	1 2 6 7 8 13 17

Even though we are currently sharing this data, this particular data set is massive and could be overwhelming to, one just to receive, but two, receive weekly updates. For this reason, this initiative would be a good topic first topic for the workgroup being formed to discuss what analysis could the State do with the data to add value for all Workforce Areas. The following example is one brought to us from a local workforce area, that this data could already answer (however we realize that AI-5 could shed more light regarding possible call back as well from a trending standpoint):

- Review of occupations of current individuals filing to see if a better match for current openings in other industries, knowing that possible WIOA training may be necessary to support transition to other skills. Example: Cleaning staff from Hotel industry to openings in Healthcare for cleaning

The following is a list of the current data fields accessible in the file:

- City
- County
- UC Claimant ID
- CCMEP eligible (i.e., is the claimant 24 years old or under)
- First Name
- Last Name
- Email Address
- Phone Number
- Lay-off date
- Separating Position
- 2 O*NET Codes of desired positions
- Mailing address (added week of June 15th)

We have submitted request to receive and distribute PUA data, this is still outstanding.

AI-7: Communication Plan regarding the announcement of COVID-19 Data Website

A communication plan will be developed with OComm and OWD to ensure best outreach and understanding of the COVID-19 data currently available to workforce professionals and interested stakeholders. Part of this plan will include:

- A webinar with our local Workforce Professionals
- A recorded tutorial that can be accessed on the website for first time users (self-training module)
- A user guide for each data set currently available
- Ability to become part of “listserv” to receive updates when data has been made available

AI-8: Create Workforce Data Workgroup

A Workforce Data Workgroup of staff from both associations and champion stakeholders would get together on a monthly basis to “check-in” on topics, such as:

- Feedback on current COVID-19 data available
- Brainstorm discussions on other possible data sets that may be available
- Discussion on possible analysis State can do with existing data and post to website. This is based on the assumption that most local counties will not have staff/capacity to do analysis on some of the data available.

The outcome from these monthly workgroup meetings will be posted to the LMI website and sent to the listserv so everyone will be informed of possible new data sets or analysis coming in the near future.

Implementation Timeline

The following is a very high-level timeline regarding the above strategies:

Action Item #	Recommended Strategy/Solutions and tasks	Estimated Completion Date
AI-1	Select and develop location for information	7/3/2020
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Prep language for new landing page	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Create sub-landing pages with corresponding language	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• OComm approval on content/language	
AI-2	Ensure stakeholders know what data is available	7/3/2020
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Prep language for all data sets made available on website	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• OComm approval on content/language	
A1-3	Streamline/simplify process for data request submittals	7/3/2020
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Finalize and develop form (web of fillable pdf)	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Establish protocols for internal review and outgoing message on request (can, cannot, pending, and timeframe to receiving data)	
AI-4A	Access to public data without request County Economic Profile Report	7/6/2020
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Finalize data analysis	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Compile individual county reports	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Review and approve county reports	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Load reports to website/test	
AI-4B	Access to public data without request COVID-19 Job Trends	7/6/2020
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Finalize data analysis	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Compile individual county reports	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Review and approve county reports	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Load reports to website/test 	
AI-5	COVID-19 Trend comparison by Employer by UI Claimants	9/14/2020
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finalize data analysis/crossmatch 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compile individual county reports 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review and approve county reports 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Send reports to each county (Assumes Legal approval) 	
AI-6	COVID-19 UI Claimant data	On-going
AI-7	Communication Plan regarding the announcement of COVID-19 Data Website	6/22/2020
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop draft plan for review 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OComm approval 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review with Data Workgroup 	
AI-8	Create Workforce Data Workgroup	6/15/2020
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solicit members from Associations and interested stakeholders 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create draft agenda for first meeting 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish future monthly meetings (day/time) 	

Outstanding issues/Risks to Implement

- (1) Currently Office of Legal has not granted permission to allow the release of the employer data as part of "AI-5: COVID-19 Trend comparison by employer by UI Claimant." We continue to work with Legal to explore the sharing of this information and possible enhancements to the existing data sharing agreements with local Workforce Areas.
- (2) Review current presentation of existing reports to see if a different format would be easier to use, such as creating reports in excel versus PDF.

Misc notes/comments

N/A at this time

Figure 1: COVID-19 Data Request Form

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To help us accommodate information and data requests during the pandemic, the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services is asking that you complete this form. This form will help us track requests and direct them to the appropriate information/data owners.

Contact Information

Name:

Email address:

Phone:

Organization/Agency:

Question or information needed:

- a. What question(s) do you want to answer using this information or data? How do you plan to use this information?

- b. What are the geographic areas that you would like data for? (For example, the State of Ohio, the JobsOhio Central Region, Cuyahoga County, Toledo, etc.)

- c. Do you want data for any specific population demographic characteristics? (For example, age groups, sex, race/ethnicity, employment status, etc.)

- d. What time period is preferred? (For example, most recent data available, annually from 2010 to most recent, monthly from January 2018 to most recent, etc.)

Date needed:

Is this request related to a past request?

Do you currently have a data sharing agreement with ODJFS?

Figure 2: COVID-19 Job Trends Report
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