

Michigan Makes Strides on Training Provider Data



States are striving to improve data collection and reporting on education programs and training providers to help job seekers and political leaders identify which programs are most likely to lead to good jobs. States also need this information to meet requirements under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA). In order to be eligible for WIOA funding, training providers must report metrics on participants' credential attainment and post-program employment outcomes. This brief highlights how Michigan is making progress on training provider reporting.

PROMOTING DATA SHARING THROUGH POLICY

Political leadership – In 2016, Michigan's Governor issued an [Executive Order](#) on information management, which prioritized privacy and a "share first" environment to promote the use of data across government agencies.

Enabling linkages – Michigan has in place data sharing agreements to allow matching of public postsecondary institution data with wage records from the state's Unemployment Insurance system. The state uses data matching to calculate employment outcomes for training providers. Data matching has been challenging because public education institutions do not collect social security numbers, which are commonly used in linking records. To address this issue, Michigan uses its driver's license data to produce enhanced wage records that can be matched with education records without social security numbers.

ADVANCING THE SYSTEM

Flexibility through more control – Michigan previously relied on an external contractor for managing its training provider information. Early in 2016, Michigan decided to bring the system, now called [Michigan Training Connect](#), in-house for more flexibility to make changes. It will be easier to meet requirements under WIOA and continually update the system to meet security standards.

More efficient reporting – Education and training institutions have been manually entering their performance outcome data once a year. Through the [Workforce Longitudinal Data System](#), this process will be reviewed for improvements in accessing, calculating, and aggregating outcome data for graduates. Michigan officials hope to provide all WIOA-required outcome information automatically through state data linkages, thus eliminating the need for public postsecondary institutions to manually survey students and report the data.

ENCOURAGING WIDER PARTICIPATION

Like other states, Michigan faces challenges with non-public institutions choosing not to report data. By providing useful information back to institutions and their students with a new career exploration tool called *Michigan Education and Career Pathfinder* (forthcoming later in 2017), state administrators hope to encourage more institutions to contribute their data. Michigan is also exploring new technology with the Training Provider Outcomes Toolkit (TPOT) project to help non-public training providers more easily report their performance data.

WDQC participates in the TPOT project, an initiative led by the University of Chicago's Center for Data Science and Public Policy to create free electronic tools for training provider reporting. Contact WDQC to learn more about the project.



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