

DP 77 – Shared Leadership - Workforce System Data Collection and Mang. -OTO - The executive budget includes funding for an integrated data management system to support workforce development programs. This proposal is a one-time-only (OTO).

**LFD
COMMENT**

The executive budget provides \$280,000 general fund in the 2007 biennium to support the development and implementation of an integrated data management system to collect, evaluate and analyze data across the approximately forty workforce development programs in the university system, K-12 education, and other state and local government agencies. The stated goals of this initiative include:

- To allow Montana to identify and track system-wide indicators and to effectively manage coordination and change among the programs in the workforce development system
- To establish a data repository of existing performance data to meet state reporting requirements, evaluate programs, facilitate research, and provided longitudinal capacity
- To establish an independent unit and advisory group that is charged with improving data accuracy
- To provide a basis for common outcome measures, comparisons, and discussion of issues across all workforce programs and operations

The existing workforce development system in Montana consists of various programs that reside, among others, in the Montana University System, in the Office of Public Instruction at the K-12 level, in the Department of Labor & Industry, and in the Department of Commerce. Many of these programs are funded primarily with federal grants such as the Carl Perkins vocational education grants, the Workforce Investment Act, the Wagner-Peyser Job Service program, and others. Historically, these various programs have had difficulty sharing data and integrating services at both the local and statewide levels.

In order to improve data management within and among workforce programs, the United States Department of Labor has funded a national project, the Integrated Performance Information for Workforce Development System Planning. As a participant, Montana has pulled together a working group with representatives from among the forty workforce development programs. The Montana working group has started to identify the data system problems that have inhibited program and service collaboration among workforce programs.

This decision package initiative is targeted to address some of the system wide concerns raised by this inter-agency, statewide working group.

For a discussion of the Shared Leadership initiatives, including legislative options for oversight and expenditure outcome accountability, which would include this proposal, please see Program 09 of this narrative.

Language

Audit Costs for the Commissioner of Higher Education

The executive budget recommends HB 2 language that identifies audit costs for specific programs in the university system budget:

“Total audit costs for the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education are estimated to be \$47,337.”

Program Proposed Budget

The following table summarizes the executive budget proposal for this program by year, type of expenditure, and source of funding.