

## **2019 Workforce Data Task Force Annual Report**

Laws 2016, Chapter 372 established the Workforce Data Task Force with representation from the Arizona Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO), the Arizona Department of Economic Security (DES), the Arizona Department of Education, the Arizona Board of Regents, and the community college districts. Pursuant to A.R.S. § 41-5404 (D), the Task Force oversees development of the State Workforce Evaluation Data System (“Data System”) and defines the requirements, structures and methodologies for the system, among other duties. This report reviews the activities of the Task Force since November 1, 2018.

We reported last year that the task force approved funding DES to expand the project to build a master data management system to include the following programs of interest to the Data System: Arizona Job Connection (WIOA Title I & III), Vocational Rehabilitation (WIOA Title IV), Cash Assistance (TANF), Food Assistance (SNAP) and Unemployment Insurance (UI). The project to build this system called the Data Layer is underway and it will end in December 2019.

DES selected Intersys, a data management and analytics company, to build the Data Layer in the Microsoft Azure cloud platform. DES and Intersys set up the Azure infrastructure, built data ingestion pipelines from source systems, and developed solutions for cleansing, matching and merging data.

The inclusion of TANF and SNAP data in the Data Layer requires approval from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). DES reports that it has completed 95% of the detailed CMS system security plan needed for CMS authorization. In the meantime, DES is using test data from TANF and SNAP that excludes medical data within the CMS purview to complete development.

OEO and the Arizona Strategic Enterprise Technology Office (ADOA-ASET) continued to hold meetings with the leading cloud service providers and IT service providers to refine the cloud architecture for the data system. OEO, in collaboration with the Arizona Commerce Authority (ACA) and ADOA-ASET, also held meetings with the entities expected to contribute data to the Data System, including the Pima and Maricopa community college district offices, to discuss development plans, system use and governance.

Upon consultation with the State Procurement Office (SPO), ADOA-ASET determined that the use of a pre-established list of qualified vendors would offer the desired flexibility for development of the Data System and other such systems in the state. This approach also ensures compliance with federal regulations governing disclosure of confidential UI data when using more than one vendor. To that end, SPO and ADOA-ASET are currently working on the RFP process to establish a new statewide data management services contract with multiple IT service providers.

OEO, in collaboration with ACA, retained the counsel of Greenberg Traurig to draft a partnership MOU, a data governance handbook, and data sharing agreements. These agreements are necessary before system development can begin as they contain federally stipulated requirements for written agreements governing data sharing.

In the last report, we stated a goal of starting development of the Data System by June 2019. Although we made substantial progress during the last year, we now anticipate that system development will begin in early 2020.

The Task Force held a public meeting on October 28 to review the staff efforts to advance the development of the Data System, and to review and approve this report. Designees of all five Task Force members were present and approved this report by a vote of 5 to 0.