The 2017 C2ER Annual Conference and LMI Institute Annual Forum

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Outline

- Budget
- Vision
- Joint BLOC-PC meeting
- BLOC projects
- Communications
Budget
The FY 2017 President’s budget proposed $641 million in funding for BLS, an increase of $33.2 million over the FY 2016 final enacted level.

A large share of this request was to cover higher costs due to inflation, including $13 million not provided in the FY 2016 enacted level.

It also included 3 new initiatives:
- Employer Training Survey ($3 million)
- CPS supplement ($1.6 million)
- Supplemental Poverty ($2.5 million)
BLS Budget – FY 2017

▶ On May 5 the President signed the Consolidated Appropriations Act. This keeps the BLS funding level for this year at the FY 2016 appropriated level of $609 million.

▶ In order to maintain current production and core programs, at this funding level, the BLS has been curtailing spending on data improvements, and development and research projects. In addition, the BLS has cancelled particular trainings, including program-wide training of staff and state partners.

▶ This included the cancellation of the BLS-LMI Conference, fed/state cooperative program national conferences and Policy council meetings.
On May 23, the President submitted to Congress his 2018 Budget. The 2018 President’s Budget proposes $607.8 million in funding for the BLS. This request is a decrease of $1.2 million from the FY 2016 final enacted level. Within this level, the BLS will continue the production of core data series, as well as, take on select projects that will improve the products provided to our data users.
BLS Budget – FY 2018

- The BLS will consider efficiencies and changes in our operations, including changes to some programs that may be necessary in order to reallocate funding to the production of core data series.

- The plan for FY 2018 also includes non-permanent programmatic reductions that may temporarily affect the quality and quantity of select BLS products.
BLS Budget – FY 2018

- OEUS planned reversible cuts
  - QCEW $2.4 million
    - Eliminate state contribution of $1 million to QUEST
    - Coding requirement changes $1.4 million
  - OES $1.2 million
    - Reduce sample by 6.5% (26,000)
    - Most metropolitan divisions would not be published and some small balance of state areas will be combined with other areas
BLS Budget – FY 2018

- OEUS reversible cuts
  - LAUS reduction $500,000
    - Eliminate 441 New England Minor Civil Divisions with populations less than 1,000
  - CES reduction $400,000
    - Eliminate two specific deliverables: annual summary of state contributions to the benchmark, and delivery of information to BLS on local events in the analysis of estimates

- OEUS total planned reversible cuts affect all of OEUS programs, not just fed/state
Vision
Vision

- Prioritizing closing major data gaps
- Measuring jobs in demand
- Expanding local detail
  - Increased use of modelling
  - Increased use of visualization
- The future of data collection
- Creation of new products
Vision – prioritizing closing data gaps

- What industries are temporary help workers being placed in?
- How firms produce their products or provide their services
  - Types of labor – W&S, temporary help, contract, self-employed, among others
  - Purchased inputs
  - Offshoring
  - Employer provided training
Vision – prioritizing closing data gaps

- Globalization and enterprise based data collection
  - Factoryless goods production
  - Global supply chains
  - Value added trade

- Occupational, industry and product classification systems
Vision – measuring jobs in demand

- New way to measure jobs in demand
- Develop time series of occupational employment changes
  - Develop thresholds for employment change over time
  - Identify high-wage occupation thresholds
  - Sort by educational attainment generally required for entry into the occupation
  - Set other thresholds such as size of occupation, number of new jobs created, etc.
Vision – measuring jobs in demand

- OES time series
  - New way to measure jobs in demand
  - Short-term complement to using long-term projections
  - Impute OES back to the QCEW to provide local detail and better estimates
Vision – Expanding local detail

- Increased use of modelling
  - Modelling JOLTS to the state level
  - Develop OES time series estimates down to lower levels of geography
  - Blending data through ratio allocation and modelling to create more local detail
    - Use of Mean Squared Error reduction as a measurement objective
Vision – Expanding local detail

- Increased use of visualization
  - Creating local profiles by combining data across BLS and other data sets
  - Mapping technology
Vision - Modernization of data collection and lowering response burden

- Elimination of long forms in OES and autocoding
- ARS to email and to QBS
- Expansion of EDI
- Payroll providers
- Wage records and OES
Vision - Leveraging corporate data

- A large share of collected information in our establishment surveys comes from a small share of total establishments owing to the size concentration of economic activity.

- The Current Employment Statistics Survey (CES) collects data from 88 corporations at the Electronic Data Interchange Center in Chicago, IL:
  - Accounts for nearly 10% of total weighted employment
  - Respondents submit electronic files in BLS formats
Vision - Leveraging corporate data

- In 2012, of the known value of U.S. exports that could be matched to specific companies:
  - the top 50 companies contributed nearly 31% of known value
  - the top 100 nearly 40%
  - the top 250 just over half
  - and the top 2000 nearly 78%
Vision - Development of new and innovative products: New potential surveys

- Survey of Employer Provided Training
- Quick response surveys of establishments
Vision: Development of new and innovative products: Matching

- QCEW-Nonprofit
- QCEW-FDI
- QCEW-OES
- QCEW-SOII-OES
- QCEW-Customs Exports-OES
Vision: Development of new and innovative ‘big data’ products: Wage records

- Wage record pilot
- UI non-filers study
- Resurrect the Mass Layoff Survey
- Model JOLTS to the state level
Vision - Development of new and innovative products

- Cross-program products
  - Local profiles
- Videos
- Infographics
- Training and software
Joint BLOC – Policy Council Meeting
Joint BLOC – PC meetings: Cross-program topics

- Managing state level staffing
  - Best practices - hiring, training, management challenges, innovative practices

- Declining trends in response rates
  - Response rate improvement projects, federal, and state perspectives

- Annual Refiling Survey
  - Review current test of moving the quarterly state deliverable up by one week, impact on programs, and review of state concerns
Cross-program topics

- Cross-program product development
  - Sharing examples of approaches to creating new innovative products – combining data from multiple sources, infographics, matching administrative and survey data, among others

- Wage records
  - State experiences with sharing and enhancing wage records, best practices, lessons learned, future opportunities
BLOC projects
BLOC projects

- Wage records

- Examination of the adequacy of budget resources for fed/state programs

- Strategic planning

- Jobs in demand
Wage records

■ BLS Pilot
  ▶ Texas, Louisiana, Utah, Washington, Oregon, and Idaho
  ▶ Testing sharing protocols and IT requirements using ‘fake’ data
  ▶ Creating sharing agreements

■ WRAWG
  ▶ OMB, Census, DOL, BLS, and Ed joint effort
BLOC budget subgroup

Evelina Loescher, Carrie Mayne, Mark Watson, Mike Horrigan, Tom Shaffer, Charlene Peiffer, Brent Hill

- Develop an analytical approach to determining if the BLS fed/state programs are adequately funded
- Meets every two weeks
- Development of an analytical approach that we will discuss with the BLOC
Strategic Planning: Vision buckets

Ken Robertson, Julie Hatch, Evelina Loescher, Carrie Mayne

- Achieve and maintain high data quality
- Provide excellent customer service
- Close high priority data gaps
- Leverage opportunities for new products
- Improve fed/state coordination
- Conduct high quality research
- Provide high quality data driven resource management
- Provide high quality program oversight
Jobs in demand
Rebecca Rust

- Pathways project
  - Too much heterogeneity

- Focus on skills
  - Survey of LMI Directors on how states measure jobs in demand
Communication
Challenge to the BLOC and PCs

- Budget shortfalls are necessitating the cancellation of the BLS LMI conference and various BLOC, Policy Council, and program national conferences for the remainder of the year.

- We hope to resume the normal practice of holding these meetings in FY 18:
  - 3 BLOC and 3 Policy Council meetings
  - BLS National LMI conference and fed/state program national conferences
New communication channels

- Create a new WebEx series for meetings on broad topics of interest for all LMI directors
  - Budget updates
  - Major BLOC projects
  - OEUS annual planning memo
  - Major Policy Council projects
  - fed/state research studies

- More frequent ‘virtual’ meetings in-between in-person
Contact Information

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