June 5, 2014

ANSWERS

ALASKA’S P-20W SLDS

Mission: Deliver outcomes information to Alaska stakeholders to assess, evaluate, and improve the state’s education and career development spectrum.

ANSWERS is a collaboration of the Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education, the University of Alaska, Alaska Department of Education & Early Development, and Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development.

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**Project Overview**

- **ANSWERS:** Alaska Navigator: Statewide Workforce and Education-Related Statistics
- **P-20W SLDS:** Early learning-workforce statewide longitudinal data system
- Federal grant - $4 million over July 2012 to June 2015
  - Links existing K-12, postsecondary and workforce data
- Collaborative effort of:
  - Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education (ACPE),
  - University of Alaska (UA),
  - Department of Education & Early Development (EED), and
  - Department of Labor & Workforce Development (DOL&WD)

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Three grant priorities, as designated by the 2012 Institute of Education Sciences Grant.

- K12 Systems
- Linkage of K-12 systems and early childhood information
- Linkage of K-12 systems to workforce and/or postsecondary education

Map on next slide presents state-by-state summary of SLDS development

- Alaska received additional personnel exchange grant to visit and learn from other states (AR, MS, KY)
SLDS Priority by State

- Linkage to Workforce/Postsecondary
- Linkage to Early Childhood and K12
- K12 System
Create secure, state longitudinal data system to provide critical information to Alaska’s policymakers, educators, and general public about Alaska’s education and workforce outcomes by linking existing cross-sector data, to evaluate:

- Student transitions
- Performance in education and workforce systems
- Return on investment, as related to program outcomes
- Key policy and research questions

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Create reports, dashboards, and information products to provide timely, value-added information in audience-appropriate formats to better inform decision and policy-making, within specific parameters:

- Relies on input from existing data systems
- Addresses cross-sector issues not readily answered by individual partners
- Data and reporting conform to best practices and privacy laws
1. Planning and Preparation (complete) – July 2012 to June 2013
2. Infrastructure (in progress) – July 2013 to September 2014
4. Data Reporting (in progress) – May 2014 to April 2015
5. Training/Professional Development – January 2015 to June 2015

★ Dates are revised on a monthly basis based on project activities
Completion of Outcome 1 – Planning and Preparation

- Established and implemented governance structure
- Analysis of existing data systems
- Created stakeholder engagement and communication plan
- Proof-of-concept reports issued and stakeholder input gathered
- Developed business and technical requirements
- Partner agreement on system design, platform, and processes
Governance

Established in Governor’s 2011 Administrative Order 261

Executive Governance Board:
- Executive authority and responsibility for ANSWERS
- ACPE Executive Director, UA President, EED and DOLWD Commissioners

Program Governance:
- Proposes policies and operating principles
- Provides direction and guidance to ANSWERS staff
- Ensures implementation of executive directives
- Program managers from ACPE, UA, EED and DOLWD

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Governed by ANSWERS policy questions

Multiple reporting levels with appropriate suppressions/control levels
- Approved research access
- Feedback reports to stakeholders, such as:
  - School district feedback reports
  - APS and program outcomes analyses
- Responses to legislative or custom information requests
- Public site/dashboards

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Sustainability
- Need to seek long-term funding and positions
- Must first demonstrate value and identify associated costs

Scope
- Grant is to link existing partner data
- Demand is for more utility and data use options
Challenges and Opportunities - 2

★ Public perception
★ Concern about potential misuse of data and sensitivity to big data
★ Policymaker interest in more access to data

★ Stakeholder engagement
★ Stakeholders desire to expand data use and products
★ Stakeholders lack time/resources to provide detailed input and feedback
## Grant Expenditures to Date (May 2014)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Budget Category</th>
<th>Actual Expenses</th>
<th>Remaining Budget</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Personnel</td>
<td>$28,586</td>
<td>$364,144</td>
<td>$392,730</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fringe Benefits</td>
<td>8,282</td>
<td>369,050</td>
<td>377,332</td>
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<tr>
<td>Travel</td>
<td>102,731</td>
<td>80,000</td>
<td>182,731</td>
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<td>Equipment</td>
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<td>302,166</td>
<td>302,166</td>
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<td>Supplies</td>
<td>4,202</td>
<td>14,798</td>
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<td>Contractual</td>
<td>714,033</td>
<td>1,942,008</td>
<td>2,656,041</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>6,860</td>
<td>63,140</td>
<td>70,000</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Costs</strong></td>
<td><strong>$864,694</strong></td>
<td><strong>$3,135,306</strong></td>
<td><strong>$4,000,000</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ANSWERS Sustainability Plan

- Creation of ANSWERS Program Management Office (PMO) in 2015
  - Reports through ANSWERS director to Executive Governance Board
  - Coordinates info/research request responses with partners
  - Develops, distributes and updates public reports, identifies evolving stakeholder needs, and proposes new information products
  - Provisions controlled access to ANSWERS for approved users
  - Ensures ongoing system maintenance and security
★ Estimates based on current assumptions and information, to be refined over time

★ Initial funding from Alaska Student Loan Corporation (ASLC) as part of ACPE’s operating budget
  ★ Demand for information and demonstration of value will drive longer-term sustainability planning
  ★ Funding structure to be evaluated after initial operational years to identify long-term funding model and program location
Annual direct costs of ~$1M post grant project - ASLC FY16 funding

- PMO staffing (management, research, and technical roles)
- Partner organization costs (report development, data submission and validation, etc.)
- Other administrative costs (facilities, supplies, travel, etc.)
- ACPE in-kind for indirect expenses such as facilities, network administration, etc.
Potential phase II (post-grant) opportunities, based on expandable, scalable system design:

- Additional data sources, uses and products
  - Addition of DHSS, Corrections or other data relevant to education outcomes assessment?
  - Program-specific outcomes reports to education program providers?
  - Leveraging of trend data to ensure individual students guided regarding education pathways of most benefit?
- Development of new tools such as early warning systems or workforce demand models

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Potential future grants
- IES research grants
- Proposed NCES FY15 SLDS grant
- Partner pursuit of grant-funded projects utilizing ANSWERS data
- Private grant opportunities

Fee-for-service options
- Fees for non-partner research access
- Research and outcomes-measurement consulting
Questions and Comments

★ ANSWERS Contacts:

★ Gwendolyn Gruenig, UA ANSWERS Project Manager: gdgruenig@alaska.edu or 450-8190

★ Kerry Thomas, ANSWERS Project Manager: kerry.thomas@alaska.gov or 465-6749

★ Stephanie Butler, ANSWERS Project Director: stephanie.butler@alaska.gov or 465-6743

★ ANSWERS Website - acpe.alaska.gov/ANSWERS

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Handouts

★ Project summary:
http://acpe.alaska.gov/Portals/0/OTHER/Pubs/ANSWERS_Project_Summary.pdf

★ Policy questions:
http://acpe.alaska.gov/Portals/0/OTHER/Pubs/ANSWERS_Policy_Questions.pdf

★ ANSWERS notecard:
http://acpe.alaska.gov/Portals/0/OTHER/Pubs/ANSWERS_Notecard.pdf

★ District feedback report:

★ Interpreting the district feedback report: