

**TOWARDS A MARKET-RESPONSIVE EDUCATION & EMPLOYMENT TRAINING SYSTEM  
THE “MEETS” PROJECT**

The Jacob France Institute at the University of Baltimore manages this research project sponsored by the Office of Policy Development, Evaluation and Research (OPDER) and the Business Relations Group (BRG) of the U.S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration. The project attempts to carry out ETA's mission of developing a demand-driven system of workforce development.

**Supporting Local Decision Making**

Specifically, MEETS focuses on how new labor market information can help state and local workforce development stakeholders make decisions and develop education and employment training programming that ‘meets’ the needs of employers and workers. The project designs, produces, field-tests, and seeks customer feedback about new ways to describe and update information about local business hiring activity and what this means for strategic investment of local education and employment training funds.

**Based on LED**

MEETS uses official industry classifications and Census Bureau Local Employment Dynamics Program Quarterly Workforce Indicators (QWIs) to define and analyze employment dynamics in the targeted industries. This is done by designing and pilot testing the use of linked administrative records as a strategic tool for the workforce investment system in serving businesses and workers. Although focusing on high-growth and high priority job transformation industries initially, MEETS will ultimately describe an approach to the delivery of new labor market -information that can be adapted to any mix of employment opportunities and challenges.

**State Partnerships**

Labor market information units and related research organizations in 5 states (California, Colorado, Florida, Illinois, and Maryland) play critical roles in the project, including the provision of LED data and technical assistance to JFI. State LMI partners also help assess the value-added of new data products and will assist in developing the content of a user guide that will help all partners with replication efforts that will not require external assistance.

**Local Pilots**

In each partner state, two local workforce areas participate as testing sites for the use of MEETS LMI products. Employment growth and the presence of strong workforce development system partners were important criteria in the screening process of these local sites. A single point-of- contact in each local area facilitates and delivers feedback on MEETS products to JFI, on behalf of local workforce development decision-makers. These customers, including workforce boards, community colleges, economic development entities, and businesses themselves, will ultimately determine the value of the products and thus the success of the project.

For additional information about MEETS, please contact Project Manager Jeff Gabriel at (410) 837-5276 or [jgabriel@ubalt.edu](mailto:jgabriel@ubalt.edu). The MEETS website is also available at [www.ubalt.edu/jfi/meets](http://www.ubalt.edu/jfi/meets).