

Maine Department of Labor Department Overview

Presented to the Joint Standing Committee on Labor and Housing January 25, 2021



Agenda

Morning Session

- Department Overview
- Administration
- Center for Workforce Research and Information
- Bureau of Labor Standards
- Bureau of Rehabilitation Services
- Bureau of Employment Services

Afternoon Session

- Bureau of Unemployment Compensation
- Unemployment Insurance Pandemic Response



Mission

To achieve the most effective utilization of the employment and training resources in the State

- by developing and maintaining an accountable state employment and training policy,
- by ensuring safe working conditions and protection against loss of income and
- by enhancing the opportunities of individuals to improve their economic status.

(Title 26 §1401-A)



Bureaus

Center for Workforce Research and Information

develops and disseminates state and area labor market information.

Bureau of Labor Standards

helps workers and businesses make their worksites safer; upholds standards for minimum wages, child labor and other practices; and gathers information on the rapidly changing world of work.

Bureau of Rehabilitation Services

helps Maine residents with disabilities have access to employment, live independently, and fully participate in their local communities.

Bureau of Employment Services

helps jobseekers prepare for and find good jobs and assists employers recruit, hire, train, and retain workers.

Bureau of Unemployment Compensation

provides economic stability for individuals and Maine's communities.





75% Federal Funds10% General Fund15% other funds



Maine Department of Labor Staffing, 2019-2021

Department Staffing

500

Filled positions remained relatively constant from 2019, except for unemployment. Staffing in unemployment increased 55%.





Office of the Commissioner



Commissioner Laura Fortman



Deputy Commissioner Kim Smith



Communications Manager Jessica Picard



Legislative Liaison Isaac Gingras

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Office of the Commissioner

Responsibilities:

- Leadership of the Department
- Oversight of programs and services
- Liaison with the legislature, the press, and the public
- Communications
- Administrative functions
 - Facilities management
 - Cybersecurity
 - Publications development
 - Website management



Center for Workforce Research and Information



Mark McInerney Director



CWRI works in collaboration with the U.S. Department of Labor to produce Maine Labor Market Information (LMI)

 Jobs, wages, unemployment, employment by industry/occupation, job outlook and more

CWRI: team of 12 staff working in

- data collection
- production
- estimation
- analysis

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs





- Nearly 105,000 payroll jobs were lost during the pandemic
- Through November:
- Just under 56,000 jobs have been recovered from April low
- The November total remained down almost 49,000 from February



Unprecedented disruptions in the labor market

The job loss was the largest on record for a one- or two-month period (April-March 2020)

• Approximately one out of six jobs lost

Payroll jobs remain 7.6 percent lower (from February through November)

• Still more substantial than any of the previous seven recessions

The 532,800 jobs in April was the lowest monthly total since August of 1994

Change in Jobs by Sector in Maine



Construction Federal Government **Retail Trade** Wholesale Trade Transportation, Warehousing & Utilities Information **Financial Activities** State Government Professional & Business Services **Other Services Private Educational Services** Manufacturing Local Government Health Care & Social Assistance Leisure & Hospitality -45.000 -30.000 -15.00015.000 0

February to April

April to November

Two thirds of net josses are in four sectors: **leisure and hospitality** (37 percent), **health care and social assistance** (14 percent), **manufacturing** (nine percent), and **private educational services** (seven percent)

Adding **local** (12 percent) and **state governments** (four percent) accounts for more than 80 percent of the net decrease in jobs (Feb through Nov)

Over Month Change in Jobs





- A jobs recovery began in May and accelerated in June
- Before gradually slowing month by month through the fall
- Trends in Maine's labor market are very similar to what has occurred nationally

Unemployment Rates





- Maine's unemployment rate has decreased to 5 percent
- Peaking at 10.5 percent in April
- The unemployment rate has understated the magnitude of job loss throughout the pandemic
- Jobless people who did not search for work are not considered to be in the labor force and are not counted as unemployed

Labor Force Participation Rates





- Health concerns, childcare challenges, and other factors prevented many jobless people from being available to work and engage in work search, as we would expect if not for the pandemic
- If labor force participation was as high as it was in February, the unemployment rate in November would be 8 percent

Center for Workforce Research and Information



CWRI provides state agencies and policy makers with data and analysis to inform decision-making and support policy-making

Majority of CWRI funding (over 80 percent) is provided by the federal government (U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics and Employment and Training and Administration)



By Occupation: employment and wage estimates for more than 600 occupations

By Industry: employment and wages by industry and location for all Maine employers covered by the unemployment insurance system

MaineEARNS: connects employment outcomes to higher education and other training/education data sources

- Data collaborative with other agencies in MDOL and the University of Maine System, Maine Community College System, Department of Education and others
- Informs students, parents, educators, administrators, policy makers about available educational credentials

10 year occupational and industry employment projections

Bureau of Labor Standards





Mike Roland Director

Bureau Breakdown

WAGE & HOUR DIVISION

WORKPLACE SAFETY & HEALTH DIVISION

TECHNICAL SERVICES DIVISION

- Customer Service Unit
- Research and Statistics Unit

OUTREACH AND EDUCATION DIVISION



DEPARTMENT OF LABOR Bureau of Labor Standards

Wage & Hour Division



Staff

Director Chief Inspector Six Inspectors

Responsibilities

Assures compliance with the hundreds of Maine statutes protecting workers

- Conducts complaint investigations and focused inspections
- Recovers unpaid wages and assesses penalties

Minors in the Workplace

- Enforces and answers constituent questions about Maine's child labor laws, such as minimum age requirements, hazardous jobs and hours of employment.
- Processes work permits for minors

Prevailing Wage

 Informs covered agencies and enforces Maine's law (in collaboration with Research & Statistics staff, below)

Logging Proof of Ownership

 Verifies certifications and enforces statute (in collaboration with Foreign Labor Certification staff)

Workplace Safety & Health Division



Staff

Director Two Program Managers Three Enforcement Inspectors Ten Safety & Health Consultants Two Office Support Staff

Responsibilities

- Compliance assistance and training for public and private sector employers
- OSHA State Plan for state and local government only enforcement
 - OSHA still enforces safety and health regulations in Maine's private sector
 - Board of Occupational Safety and Health sets standards and hears appeals
- Issues SHARP (S&H Achievement Recognition Program) and SHAPE (S&H Award for Public Employers) awards
 - recognizes employers with exemplary S&H programs, and
 - exempts them from program inspection for two years.

Addison Volunteer Fire Dept.	Greenville Fire Dept.	Newcastle Fire Company
Alna Volunteer Fire Dept.	Hampden Water District	North Lakes Fire & Rescue
Appleton Fire Dept.	Harrington Fire Dept.	Northern Penobscot Tech - R 3
Ashland, Town of	Hartland VFD	Northport First Responders
Auburn Water & Sewage District	Hope Fire Dept.	Northport Volunteer Fire Dept.
Belgrade Transfer Station	Houlton Water Company	Norway Water District
Berwick Fire Dept.	Jay, Town of	Oakland Fire Dept.
Berwick Water Dept.	Jefferson Fire & Rescue	Old Town, City of
Boothbay Fire Dept.	Kennebec Water District	Orono Fire Dept.
Bradley Fire Dept.	Kennebunk, Kennebunkport & Wells Water	Paris Fire Dept.
Bristol / So. Bristol Transfer Station	Kennebunk, Town of	Rockport, Town of
Bristol, Town of	Kingfield Fire Dept.	Rome Fire Dept.
Brooks Fire Dept.	Kittery Water District	Sabattus Sanitary & Water
Brownfield Volunteer Fire Dept.	Knox County	Sagadahoc County
Brunswick Sewer District	Levant Fire Dept.	Saint Agatha Fire Dept.
Bucksport, Town of	Lewiston Fire Dept.	Scarborough, Town of
Camden Fire Dept.	Liberty Fire Dept.	Skowhegan, Town of
Caribou, City of	Limestone Water and Sewer	Somerville Fire Dept.
Carrabassett Valley Fire Dept.	Lincoln Water District	South Thomaston Fire Dept.
Cary Medical Center	Maine Turnpike Authority	United Technologies
Damariscotta Fire Dept.	Maine Veterans' Home - Caribou	University of Maine - Aroostook Farms
Dover and Foxcroft Water District	Manchester Fire Dept.	University of Maine - Blueberry Farms
Durham Fire Dept.	Mapleton, Town of	Waldoboro Fire Dept.
Edgecomb Fire Dept.	Mayo Regional Hospital	Westbrook Public Services
Fairfield, Town of	MDOT - Region 2	Wilton, Town of
Farmingdale Fire Dept.	MDOT - Region 3	Windsor Volunteer Fire Dept.
Farmington Fire & Rescue, Police, Parks & Recreation	MDOT - Region 4	Winslow, Town of
Fort Fairfield, Town of	MDOT - Region 5	Winthrop Fire Dept.
Fort Kent Fire & Rescue	Mid-Coast School of Technology	York Water District
Greater Augusta Utilities District	Mid-Maine Technical Center	



SHAPE 2021

AWARDEES

SafetyWorks! Training Institute

SafetyWorks!

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- Free workplace safety and health training in Augusta and other instate locations
- New technology at Augusta facility enables enhanced virtual training in 2021
- Hundreds of classes scheduled for 2021
 - Schedule available online and in SW! calendar







Customer Service Unit (207) 623-7900

Staff

Supervisor Four Support Staff

Responsibilities

- Serves entire Department
- Directs calls and visitors to appropriate bureau
- Provides Labor Standards information
- Performs Intake for training and consultations
- Manages distribution for the no-cost library of safety and health training videos/DVDs



In 2020, the unit handled:

- 5,817 email inquiries (67% increase from 2019)
- 41,975 phone calls (almost triple!)
 - More than half were about
 Unemployment Insurance
- 385 walk-in inquiries (far fewer than usual)

Research and Statistics Unit



Staff

Director Supervisor Four Researchers

Responsibilities

- Workplace injury, illness and death data collection for USDOL—
 - Survey of Occupational Injuries and illnesses (SOII) and
 - Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI)
- Substance Use Testing Program (non-DOT employers must receive approval before testing Maine employees).
- Conducts annual construction wage surveys (now two!) and calculates Prevailing Wages on State-funded public works.
- Produces Annual Report on the Status of the Maine Workers' Compensation System in collaboration with Workers Compensation Board and Bureau of Insurance.

Outreach and Education Division



Staff

Director Coordinator

Responsibilities

- State Monitor Advocate for Migrant and Seasonal Farmworkers
- Foreign Labor Certification (in collaboration with Bureau of Employment Services)
- Implements strategic outreach initiatives related to workers' rights, employer education, and workplace health & safety
- Supports and develops new methods of education and training for BLS and MDOL
- Develops contacts and strengthens relationships with underserved populations
- Instrumental in providing information about **Earned Paid Leave**!

Thank You!



Questions???

MAINE DEPARTMENT OF AB()R Bureau of Labor Standards



Bureau of Rehabilitation Services



Karen Fraser Director



Mission

To help Maine residents with disabilities have full access to employment, live independently, and fully participate in their local communities.

Overview

U.S. Dept. of Education Rehabilitation Services Administration

Two primary Designated State Units:

- Division for the Blind and Visually Impaired (DBVI)
- Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) Additional organizational units:
- Division for the Deaf, Hard of Hearing and Late Deafened
- Division of Quality Assurance
- State ADA Accessibility Coordinator



Responsibilities

Administer the public Vocational Rehabilitation

program.

Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014 (Title IV)

Adhere to Maine State Statutes. Title 26 Chapter 19 Department of Labor Subchapter 2: REHABILITATION SERVICES

Support MDOL goals by:

- Helping people with disabilities find, retain and advance in employment.
- Providing employers with disability-related employment information.
- Developing a workforce of qualified employees for Maine businesses.

Total Revenue: \$27 million in SFY 2021



	Components
Funding sources	 69.3% federal funds
-	 29.6% general funds
	 1.1% special revenue
Distribution by	 79.4% Vocational Rehabilitation (4:1 federal to state match)
program	 6.6% Education of Blind Children
expenditures	 5.2% Independent Living Services (9:1 federal to state match)
	 1.4% Deaf Telecommunications
	 6.2% Transition Work-based Learning (federal research project)
	 1.2% Other programs, including supported employment

Staffing

152.5 Positions

Based in nine MDOL locations with community outreach throughout the state.

- Staff are skilled in working with people with disabilities and have advanced education and training in rehabilitation, including as Vocational Rehabilitation Counselors; Orientation and Mobility Instructors; and Blindness Rehabilitation Specialists.
- BRS was able to transition staff successfully to working remotely during the pandemic because of existing tools, policies and practices.
- Services are being delivered using distance technologies, such as through video-conferencing and online offerings, including Virtual Career Exploration Workshops, Virtual Job Shadows and Virtual Job Clubs.
- BRS has continued to provide in-person services, including vocational counseling, orientation and mobility instruction and job placement, when necessary and safe to do so, according to CDC guidelines.

Individuals served

Approximately 10,000 individuals are served through BRS each year*

*We have experienced a reduction in the number of people applying for services and an increase of those asking to put services on hold during the COVID-19 pandemic.

In SFY 2020



- 6,719 participants received services through Individualized Plans for Employment with DVR/DBVI, addressing disability-related barriers while providing career counseling, training, education and a range of job supports
- With support from DVR/DBVI, approximately 700 individuals found jobs across the state and industry sectors that ranged from accountant/auditor to construction laborer to registered nurse, earning a total of \$16.7 million in wages.
- We have a strong focus on youth with disabilities (40% of people served are between Ages 15 22) and their preparation for employment in adulthood through job exploration counseling, work-based learning experiences, counseling on opportunities for post-secondary training and education, workplace readiness training to develop social skills, and instruction in self-advocacy.
- We **providing opportunities for youth with disabilities to access paid work experiences** including summer work in alignment with the Governor's Children's Cabinet 2021 goal of increasing paid work experience, work-based learning and internships for Maine youth.
- Approximately 300 children with visual impairments received adaptive instruction and consultation services to support successful academic achievement and independence.
- Approximately 400 adults, Age 55 and older, who are blind or visually impaired received independent living services, learning how to accomplish daily tasks safely and avoiding more costly institutionalization.

Real People Real Results

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Workers' Compensation Board. "Joanne" experienced injuries in her previous employment as a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) and had numerous resulting surgeries. She was left with significant restrictions to one side of her body, as well as residual physical discomfort. She worked with her DVR VR counselor to discuss transferable skills and interests and developed an employment goal of "Medical Assistant". Joanne's plan included training, childcare, and transportation assistance. She completed her training and was successfully placed at a medical practice close to her home.

Apprenticeship. Jacob is a carpenter apprentice at Reed and Reed (a construction company in Woolwich that was founded in 1928). The apprenticeship program is a good fit for Jacob as there is a "schedule of work" with a qualified mentor while he learns the tasks and demands of his new job. The one-on-one approach and structured learning on the job are a huge benefit to Jacob and the way he learns and interacts socially. It also allows for him to get to know people and the expectations of his coworkers as being an inclusive member of a team, with a mentor to guide and advocate for him as needed. He is also socializing with his peers on the job—something he struggled with in high school. Jacob is happy with his placement, and his employer is likewise satisfied with his performance and progress.
Real People Real Results

From foster care to public service. DVR's Sitara Sheikh, a Rehabilitation Counselor for the Deaf, has been supporting a young woman through her educational journey as she prepared for employment. "Sarah" recently began her dream career as a caseworker with the Department of Health and Human Services!

Assistive technology makes a difference. DBVI has been working with an individual who just obtained employment as a Master's Level Clinician as an Adult Outpatient Therapist earning \$50 per hour. "Joan" has a visual impairment, is hard of hearing, and is dealing with some physical health issues. DBVI is providing assistive technology to ensure that she can access her employer's computer programs and have proper set up in her home office, including lighting and layout, for successful job performance.

Even during a pandemic. DBVI worked with an older Episcopalian priest who had been struggling with researching for sermons and delivering them because of macular degeneration. This individual received some training from an Assistive Technology (AT) specialist who worked remotely on using an I-pad and advised DBVI to purchase a video magnifier. These devices enable her to use journals for research - something that was very difficult to do - and has significantly increased the quality and pace of her work.



Real People Real Results

veoba, a Vocational Rehabilitation ess story: " I've been working with

Support and perseverance. DVR's Anita Jayeoba, a Vocational Rehabilitation counselor in Portland, shared this recent success story: "I've been working with "Diane" since she graduated High School. She has experienced many trials and tribulations over time. She was just hired this month as a BHP (Behavioral Health Professional) – a job she has always wanted – making \$15.75/hr. for 25 hrs./week. She has also completed 2 educational certificates and is planning to take more classes this fall. I'm really proud of her for "sticking in there" through all she's gone through."

Living life to the fullest. "Ben" is over Age 90 and still skis with his grandson and great-granddaughter every February. Although he states, "I'm beginning to slow down a bit" and is not sure he'll go this year, he walks daily around his facility (inside up to a mile and outside up to 3 miles daily) and is a pleasure to work with. He worked with a DBVI Orientation & Mobility (O & M) instructor and requested "something to put his cane in "so I don't lose it". The O&M found a cane holder for him and he loves it. He also has been working with a Vision Rehabilitation Therapist and has been very happy with the black and yellow stickers for his computer keyboard and the LP address book, both of which help him to keep up with his correspondence to family & friends.



For More Information:

Bureau of Rehabilitation Services Highlights 2019-2020

www.maine.gov/rehab



Bureau of Employment Services





Kim Moore Director



Mission

The Bureau of Employment Services (BES) helps jobseekers prepare for and find good jobs and assists employers of all sizes with recruiting, hiring, training, and retaining workers.

Topics for today's discussion





Funding and staff overview









A. Funding and Staffing



Annual budget- \$24 million

- Majority of BES budget is from Federal Department of Labor grants
- 3.3% of the BES budget comes from the State's General Fund

BES team

BES has just under 80 staff, the majority provide direct services "in the field" to employers and jobseekers.

BES leadership team includes:

Bureau Director, Deputy Bureau Director, Two Division Directors, Finance Manager, Statewide CareerCenter Director

B. BES operates multiple grants, programs and services, delivered through CareerCenters and service providers including: (1/3)



Programs and Services

Rapid Response: Helps businesses and workers before, during and after a layoff.

- In 2020, provided support and information to over 2,000 employers and 29,000 workers affected by temporary or permanent layoffs.
- In partnership with BUC, promotes and assists employers in connecting to WorkShare, a layoff aversion program helping businesses keep trained workers during a temporary downturn, and workers attached to jobs.
- Customized to the needs of workers and responsive to opportunities created by employers
 - Example: Pixelle, Maine Community College System, and Rapid Response partner to connect affected workers to free education.

Maine JobLink: Web-based job matching and labor market information system

- 14,203 jobs currently posted, including those tagged as "immediate need" and "remote work"
- UI recipients are required to create a profile in Maine JobLink
- *February 2021*: updated, contemporary interface with fewer clicks, easier navigation, improved responsiveness on phones and tablets!



B. BES operates multiple grants, programs and services, delivered through CareerCenters and service providers including: (2/3)



Programs and Services

Maine Registered Apprenticeship (MAP): Structured training programs designed to meet the specific needs of Maine employers through on-the-job learning and related classroom instruction.	 1,273 apprentices in 2020 109 registered sponsors of apprenticeship representing at least 220 businesses Helps workers like John, who began as an electricians helper and used apprenticeship to get the skills and training needed (including converting metric to standard measurements!) to become a licensed electrician.
Competitive Skills Scholarship Program (CSSP): helps eligible Maine residents to access to post-secondary education, training for industry recognized credentials, and support leading to skilled, well-compensated jobs with anticipated high employment demand.	 Served 749 individuals in 2020 37% participants selected healthcare options including Chris, who moved from direct service professional, to CNA, to B.S. RN and into employment as an RN at Maine Med
Jobs for Veterans State Grant: dedicated staff to provide individualized career and training-related services to veterans and eligible persons with significant barriers to employment and to assist employers fill their workforce needs with job-seeking veterans.	 Coordinates Maine Hire a Vet Campaign, which registered 226 participating employers and 91 Veteran hires this year (final report due in February) Shift to virtual led to exciting opportunities to connect employers and job-seeking veterans

B. BES operates multiple grants, programs and services, delivered through CareerCenters and service providers including: (3/3)



Programs and Services

Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) employment and training grants: helps get Mainers, including youth and those with significant barriers to employment, into high-quality jobs and careers through education, training, and supportive services and help employers hire and retain skilled workers.

• New in 2020:

- Connecting to Opportunities, a multi-year Dislocated Worker Emergency Response grant for workers impacted by the opioid crisis and those entering recovery-related careers
- COVID Dislocated Worker Emergency Response grant to hire disaster relief workers to aid peers in accessing humanitarian services, employment assistance, and resources related to the crisis.
- **NEW and Enhanced Reemployment Services and Eligibility Assessment (RESEA) program:** Reduce UI duration through improved employment outcomes, strengthen UI program integrity, promote alignment with the vision of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), establish RESEA as an entry point to other workforce system partners.
 - Application in progress, projected start date: March 2021
 - Target Audience: UI claimants are prioritized based on their likelihood to exhaust benefits
 - Delivery focused on customized career and labor market information and individualized reemployment plans

C. 12 CareerCenters state-wide house the bulk of BES staff delivering MAIN services to workers and employers LABO

Highlights from CareerCenter	Description
Supporting UI claimants	 In March 2020, 94% of BES staff trained and transitioned to support UI claimants, while maintaining core BES Services BES staffed Tier 1, Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA), and Tier 2 phones lines, investigated and addressed inquiries for Maine Legislators, assisted claimants in filing an initial claim and weekly certifications, and split up into specialized teams to help BUC with manual processes Through the CareerCenters, directly assisted over 67,000 Customers in filing UI claims and countless password resets
Partnership with Coursera for job- related training	 Provided 3,178 Mainers a no- cost opportunity to gain relevant skills and certifications in areas including excel, education, project management, website design, communication, marketing, healthcare and computer networking. Through December, Learners: Spent 47,268 learning hours in Coursera Completed 2,171 courses Rated course quality at 4.7/5 Learners have until February 2021 to complete their courses at no cost

D. BES quickly and effectively transitioned to serving customers virtually via LiveChat, phone, email and video teleconference





1 Includes BES only re-employment workshops, does not include workshops offered by partners

2 Re-established in-person appointments beginning in October 2020 to those who could not access reemployment services virtually

E. User Centered Design: Identifying and resolving constituent pain points in accessing and using our services



Improved CareerCenter website landing page

New improved resource guide and quick start guide

