

Rhode Island Implements America's One-Stop Operating System!

On January 14, 2004, the Rhode Island Department of Labor and Training (DLT), the operator of Rhode Island's One-Stop System, netWORKri, proudly announced the implementation of America's One-Stop Operating System (AOSOS). AOSOS is a unique web-based, one-stop operating system designed to help states and workforce investment boards effectively and efficiently meet the requirements of the Workforce Investment Act. The development of AOSOS was funded through the US Department of Labor and driven by a team of federal, state, and local workforce professionals working through America's Job Bank Service Center (AJBSC).

This comprehensive case management system for workforce and economic development professionals who work with employers and job seekers was designed by a consortium of states including: Hawaii, Kentucky, New Jersey, New York, Nevada, Rhode Island and the Virgin Islands, which currently use the system. In addition to its robust case management capabilities, AOSOS delivers federally mandated performance reporting for a number of ETA employment and training programs. In order to meet the challenges of an evolving workforce development system and federally mandated changes, the Consortium currently plays a critical role in the financial support and strategic planning for the continued enhancement, customization, and development of AOSOS.

netWORKri is comprised of various state and local agencies who deliver employment and training services to their customers including: The Departments of Labor and Training, Human Services, Elderly Affairs, Education; Office of Rehabilitation Services, Workforce Solutions of Providence/Cranston, RI AFL-CIO Dislocated Worker Program and the Workforce Partnership of Greater Rhode Island. AOSOS functionality provides the opportunity for these partners to seamlessly assess, refer, and track their customers in a One-Stop environment.

Rhode Island's training team conducted in-depth training for netWORKri partner staff. The response from staff has been overwhelmingly positive. System functionalities including automated job matching, profiling, notification and correspondence, appointment scheduling, partner referrals, and access to training providers are only some of the highlights that make AOSOS so appealing to netWORKri partner staff. The team developed an RI Training Newsletter designed as an information exchange for all netWORKri partners who utilize AOSOS. These newsletters provide updates on recent system enhancements and time saving tips and reminders.

Encouraged by enthusiastic and overwhelmingly positive responses from front line staff using AOSOS, the Consortium invites other states to take advantage of this application designed by and for workforce professionals. The system's multi-agency design makes it a viable and effective tool for the diverse partners that share critical roles under the Workforce Investment Act (WIA).

AOSOS demonstrations can be arranged for both front-line and technical staff, as well as agency and WIB decision makers. For more information, contact Kathleen Partington (401-462-8799) or visit the AOSOS website at www.ososinfo.ajb.org.