



Analyst Resource Center
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ARC Newsletter

May 2026

ARC Strategic Plan 2026

Rapid technological changes, shifting state needs, and uneven technical capacity across LMI shops have prompted an examination of what ARC is, what it delivers, and how it should evolve. The January 2026 strategic planning sessions focused on understanding ARC's current strengths, identifying customer needs, defining high-value products and services, and establishing an organizational structure capable of supporting sustained progress.

Current Role and Value

Participants reaffirmed that the ARC exists to make state LMI shops stronger, more capable, and more consistent across states. Key reflections included:

- Technology has dramatically changed, requiring ARC's role to expand and shift accordingly.
- Technical capacity varies widely across LMI shops. Some states are analytically strong but lack technical depth; many have limited resources overall. ARC should support states that do not have specialized technical staff.
- ARC brings shared infrastructure and expertise—most notably the Workforce Information Database (WID), which provides cross-state consistency and a standard structure that prevents states from having to build systems from scratch.
- Meetings are highly valued. Monthly virtual and biannual in-person meetings help ARC participants accomplish priorities, share ideas, and learn from each other.

ARC member states noted the desire to do more to evolve the WID, expand training opportunities, and improve collaboration and resource sharing among all states.

Needs of Customers and Constituents

The themes that emerged from the summer 2025 customer (state LMI offices) survey are:

- More and better training, especially in emerging technical areas.
- Training on Python and modern data-retrieval methods to help states automate, manipulate, and analyze labor market data more efficiently.
- Support with in-demand certifications and improved data related to credentials.
- Assistance adapting new technologies, including guidance on how to use AI responsibly and effectively.
- A better organized WIDCenter.org, enabling easier access to documentation, tools, examples, and shared resources.
- Better taxonomies, including skills taxonomies and improved CIP-SOC crosswalks, to help states build consistent and higher-quality products.

States also expressed interest in greater access to shared tools and visualizations, as well as mechanisms to collaborate on code, dashboards, and documentation.

Desired Future State for ARC

Strategic session participants identified several future-looking goals:

- Build a centralized National WID (see article below).
- Ensure stable staffing for WID maintenance.
- Develop better, more up-to-date training—technical, analytical, and AI-related—to raise capacity across states.
- Strengthen the mechanisms for sharing tools, visualizations, and best practices, leveraging the common WID framework to support collaborative development.
- Modernize the WIDCenter.org with a library of resources and more intuitive navigation.
- Create clear structures for workgroups to deliver concrete outputs.

Overall, ARC should be the central resource that lifts capacity and builds greater alignment, quality, and innovation across LMI operations.

Priority Areas and Workgroups

Based on needs and ideas raised, four workgroups were identified to carry forward key priorities:

- **Tools and Shared Products:** Build and maintain shared tools, templates, and dashboards with an initial focus on a National WID.
- **Website Modernization:** Modernize WIDCenter.org; improve usability and documentation (not yet convened).

- **Training and Technical Assistance:** Develop and deliver training resources on WID, Python, AI, and other priority areas.
- **Communication and Research:** Strengthen cross-state communication; create research products and shared insights.

We hope this strategic plan positions the ARC to become an even more essential partner to state LMI shops and sets a strong foundation for building a modern, responsive, and collaborative LMI ecosystem, aligned with the evolving needs of our customers.

LEWIS Training

June 30 & July 2. 1:00 - 4:00 PM Eastern Time

Michigan's Robert Walkowicz and Utah's Matt Steadman will conduct online LEWIS training with the goal of getting analysts from zero to sixty as quickly as possible.

June 30 - Zero to Thirty: Review foundational concepts regarding how to use LEWIS and the AWS AppStream environment where LEWIS is currently hosted. Participants should leave this session with a solid understanding of what states use LEWIS for and how to get data in and out of the system.

June 2 - Thirty to Sixty: Explore the direct applications of the LEWIS system and how to solve specific questions that may come up in your state. We will cover the most asked about LEWIS concept - the **staffing pattern** for Projections Suite. We will discuss various options within the system for **customizing the statistics and aggregations** used to better suit your State's unique economy.

How to Register: Log into the ULMITA Forum and navigate to <https://ulmita.org/forum/lewiszerotosixty2026>. Find the post titled "Sign up Here" and post a reply. If you are only attending one day, please state which day you are planning to attend.

Working Toward a National WID Database

By Gary Sincick, Oregon

The Workforce Information Database (WID) is the longest running ARC project and has been providing states a consistent and standard way to store labor market information for nearly 30 years. The latest iteration of the WID (version 3.0) extends a history that stretches back to its origins as the ALMIS database in the 1990s. Throughout this time, the ARC has provided various forms of technical assistance to the states to help them create and populate their WID databases, including the WID database structure document, table creation scripts, and downloadable data and crosswalk files.

Ultimately, though, it still falls to the states to administer their own WID databases and keep them current with the latest LMI data. This can involve tracking down federal data sources, deciphering difficult APIs, and transforming data from whatever format is provided into the WID-standard format. Recognizing the ongoing burden of administering the WID database, the ARC launched a project in January 2026 to create a National WID. This project will have the following features:

- A cloud-hosted WID 3.0 database containing both national data and data for all fifty states.
- Automated jobs that will populate the WID tables from federal sources such as BLS and the Census Bureau.
- An API that will allow states to download data in WID format, simplifying the process of keeping their WID databases updated.

The initial phase will focus on Core data tables as designated in the WID 3.0 specification and provide access to state staff only. The API will support downloads in both CSV and JSON formats.

The project will be designed by an ARC working group and implemented by Utah's ULMITA development team using AWS cloud infrastructure.

The API will be based in part on work done in Oregon several years ago to create an API specification for the WID. This was implemented in Oregon, but other states wishing to use it needed to implement the specification on their own platforms, a project requiring both resources and access to development staff. The National WID project will relieve the states of the task of implementing their own API.

Currently, work is being done to create the national WID tables and to identify the various sources of federal data that will be used to update the database on an ongoing basis.

Although the first phase of this project is primarily focused on helping states to administer their own WID databases, there are other potential use cases once a centralized WID has been established. It may, for example, be possible to create applications and dashboards that run directly against the centralized WID database.

Furthermore, a well-maintained national WID database may be of interest to more than just state WID admins. Future phases of the project could include making the API available to the general public.

More information and discussion about this project can be found on the ULMITA Forum under [ARC/National WID](#) If you have questions or comments about this project, please contact gary.m.sincick@employ.oregon.gov