

**PROGRAM DESCRIPTION**

Department of Higher Education and Workforce Development

HB Section(s): 3.135

Program Name: Research Team - (MERIC)

Program is found in the following core budget(s): Research Team - Missouri's Economic Research and Information Center (MERIC)

**1a. What strategic priority does this program address?**

Outreach

**1b. What does this program do?**

The Missouri Economic Research and Information Center (MERIC) performs data gathering, applied research, and reporting useful information to businesses, policymakers, jobseekers, educators, planners and the general public in making economic, workforce and data-driven decisions.

MERIC delivers accurate, targeted information to stakeholders to assist in developing policies and actions that can help grow the Missouri economy.

Research includes: (1) development and analysis of labor market data such as employment, unemployment, wage, and occupational information; (2) studies of Missouri's industries, targeted sectors, new business formations, and top occupations in those businesses; and (3) production of data and analysis on jobs and education and training that employers demand now and in the future, and (4) economic conditions and indicators.

**2a. Provide an activity measure(s) for the program.**

	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023
	Actual	Actual	Actual	Projected	Projected	Projected
<b>Direct Activities</b>						
Customers in Training/Presentations	2,139	2,501	1,585	1,268	2,000	2,000
Customer Assistance*	1,034	996	1,247	1,000	1,000	1,000
E-Newsletter Recipients	2,988	2,955	3,420	3,454	3,523	3,594
<b>Indirect Activities</b>						
Unique Web Site Users**	213,601	210,000	99,029	103,980	109,179	114,638

\*Redesigned website launch in Aug. 2019 resulted in increase in customer requests for assistance as the navigation had changed. Project levels to return to similar to previous years in FY 2021.

\*The unique web site user figure shows unduplicated counts of users as most will go to the web site multiple times during the year. The redesigned MERIC website was launched in Aug. 2019, significantly changing metrics collection and a reduction in users as the domain and bookmarked links changed.

**2b. Provide a measure(s) of the program's quality.**

	FY 2018	FY 2019 *	FY 2020 **	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023
	Actual	Actual	Actual	Projected	Projected	Projected
How helpful is the information you receive?	76%	79%	79%	80%	80%	80%
How satisfied are you with the assistance?	53%	60%	62%	63%	63%	63%
How satisfied are you with MERIC knowledge?	72%	76%	79%	80%	80%	80%
How would you rate your overall satisfaction?	73%	77%	76%	78%	78%	78%

\*Customer survey with 158 responses in 2019. Customer satisfaction survey questions scored from 1-5 (1-Very Dissatisfied to 5-Very Satisfied). Responses in 4 or 5 totaled for percent of respondents that indicate *Very to Somewhat Satisfied* or *Always to Often Helpful*.

\*\*Website redesign in FY 2019 contributed to some of the improvement in survey outcomes for FY 2020.

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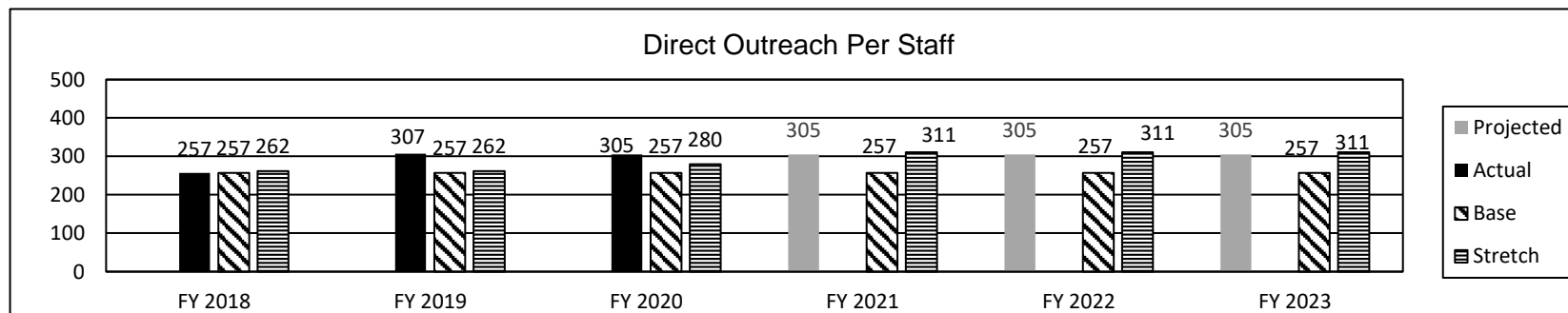
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**2c. Provide a measure(s) of the program's impact.**

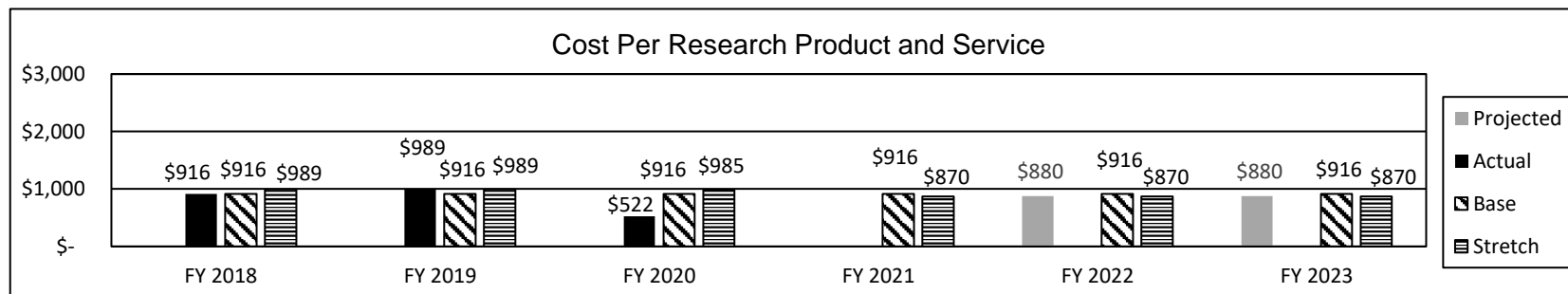


\*Direct Outreach per Staff: Sum of MERIC reported customers assisted, people trained or in presentations, and delivered newsletter recipients in the year divided by staff level. FY 2020 increase is due to significant increase in newsletter recipients with reorganization to DHEWD. Presentation and trainings were down significantly due to limited in-person outreach activities due to COVID in the 4th quarter of FY 2020.

\*\*Calculated Stretch Goal of 2% over FY 2020 actual.

\*\*\*Baseline is set to FY 2018 Actual.

**2d. Provide a measure(s) of the program's efficiency.**



\* Annual Cost Per Research Product & Service: Sum of MERIC total funding (federal grants and state revenue) divided by sum of new research products, presentation and services in the year.

\*\* Calculate stretch goal of reduced cost of 5% from FY 2018 base year.

\*\*\* FY 2020 Actual significantly lower due to unexpected changes in budget expenditures and staffing. That trend is not expected to continue in FY 2021.

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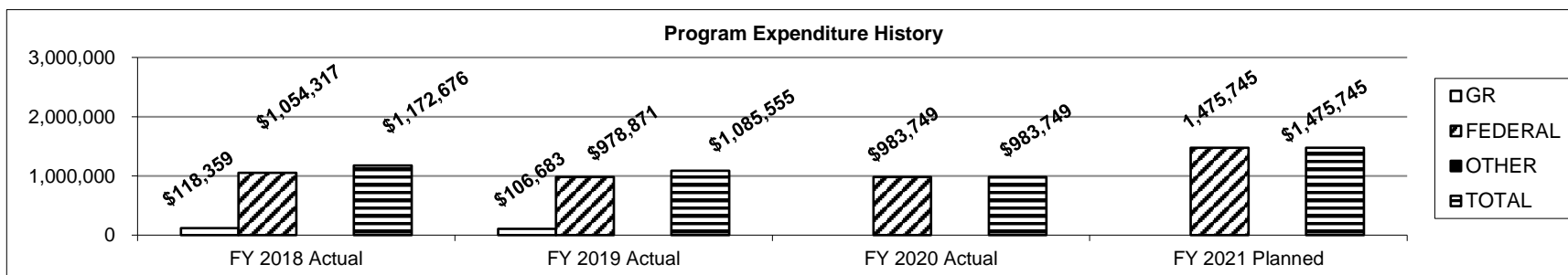
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**3. Provide actual expenditures for the prior three fiscal years and planned expenditures for the current fiscal year. (Note: Amounts do not include fringe benefit costs.)**



**4. What are the sources of the "Other " funds?**

N/A

**5. What is the authorization for this program, i.e., federal or state statute, etc.? (Include the federal program number, if applicable.)**

MERIC's federal funding from the U.S. Department of Labor comes from the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) and Employment and Training Administration (ETA). The BLS is authorized to collect labor market information pursuant to the 1884 statute (29 USC 1), an Act to Establish the Bureau of Labor, as amended. Section 14 of the Wagner-Peyser Act (29 USC 49 f(a)(3)(D)) authorizes the Secretary of Labor to reimburse the States to provide data for national statistical programs. In addition, both BLS and ETA cite the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 which amended the Wagner-Peyser Act by adding a new section 15, "Employment Statistics," which authorizes the Secretary of Labor to "...oversee the development, maintenance, and continuous improvement of a nationwide system of economic statistics..." as authorization for their programs.

**6. Are there federal matching requirements? If yes, please explain.**

No.

**7. Is this a federally mandated program? If yes, please explain.**

Yes. The BLS uses a cooperative agreement to fund cooperative statistical programs because of the agency's ongoing involvement in the programs, pursuant to the Federal Grant and Cooperative Agreement Act of 1977 (31 USC 6301-08). The specific statistical programs and program requirements funded through this LMI Cooperative Agreement are described in ongoing work statements with the states. In a similar fashion, ETA instructions for use of its funding are detailed to states in the annual Training and Employment Guidance Letter for the Workforce Information Core Products and Services Grant.