SWIS GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Aggregate Data: Data have been stripped of any information that would identify the individual(s) to whom the data pertains, including but not limited to, name and Social Security Number (SSN) and that have been aggregated into a group(s) containing no fewer than three records, provided however, that nothing herein shall prevent a PACIA from observing a more stringent aggregation policy with regard to its own use and reporting of data.

Aggregate Statistical Reports: Reports containing aggregate data.

CDS²: Command Decisions Systems & Solutions, Inc. (CDS²), SWIS Administration Contractor

CCR: Compliance Confidentiality Review

DDBI: Distributed Data Base Index, an index of all SSNs for which wages have been reported to participating states over a period of up to eight quarters. The DDBI contains three information items for each entry: SSN, quarter for which wages were reported and the state that holds the wage record. Participating states continuously update the DDBI, in accordance with a schedule determined by the SWIS Advisory Group.

DSA: Data Sharing Agreement

ETA: Employment and Training Administration

FEDES: Federal Employment Data Exchange System

ICON: Interstate Connection Network, a nationwide telecommunications system used by SUIAs to transmit information for unemployment insurance and related program purposes. ICON is the infrastructure used by SWIS to allow for the exchange of wage data.

ISO: Information Security Officer

IT: Information Technology

LMI: Labor Market Information

NIST: National Institute of Standards and Technology

Operations Contractor: the entity responsible for the technical operation and maintenance of the SWIS Clearinghouse hardware and software, for providing technical support to states participating in the SWIS and for assisting ETA with its SWIS management and administrative functions.
**PACIA:** Performance Accountability and Customer Information Agency designated by the governor to be responsible for coordinating the state’s program for assessing state and local program performance and evaluating training provider performance as required under the WIA.

**PII:** Personally Identifiable Information

**PIRL:** Participant Individual Record Layout – represents a set of common definitions that are shared across multiple programs for performance reporting.

**Query:** describes an inquiry seeking wage data sent from the SWIS Clearinghouse to the SUIA in a participating state.

**Reply:** a response from a SUIA to a Query.

**Request:** a request for wage data received by the SWIS.

**Response:** describes the wage data transmitted from the SWIS Clearinghouse to a PACIA in response to a Request.

**State:** includes all 50 states, as well as the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.

**SFTP:** secure file transfer protocol

**SUIA:** the state agency that holds wage data, whether or not such agency also administers the state’s Unemployment Insurance program.

**SWIS:** State Wage Interchange System, an automated interstate exchange of quarterly wage records with any other State signing the Agreement to satisfy performance reporting requirements in section 116 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA). The SWIS Agreement replaces the Wage Record Interchange System (WRIS and WRIS2) Data Sharing Agreements previously executed by most States. Although similar to the WRIS and WRIS2 Agreements, the SWIS Agreement incorporates all six WIOA core programs. The SWIS Agreement also addresses the requirements of WIOA, the confidentiality requirements of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) for education records, and the VR program regulations for VR records.

**State Wage Interchange System (SWIS) Clearinghouse:** the location of the separate central processing operation through which SWIS Requests, Queries, Replies and Results are processed. The SWIS Clearinghouse is operated by the Operations Contractor.

**Third Party Entities (TPE):** any public body, agency, or private career school required by law to meet state and/or Federal performance measures. A PACIA, or its agent or consultant, cannot be designated as a TPE.
Transport Layer Security (TLS): cryptographic protocols employed by the SWIS operations contractor designed to provide communications security over a computer network.

Wage Data: means individually identifiable information reported quarterly by employers as required by Section 1137(a)(3) of the Social Security Act including, but not limited to, employer names and employee names, SSNs and associated wages.

Wagner-Peyser Programs: those programs authorized under the Wagner-Peyser Act, 29 USC 49 et seq.

WIA: Workforce Investment Act, 1998 act to reform federal job training programs and create a new, comprehensive workforce investment system.

WIOA: Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, 2014 act designed to help job seekers access employment, education, training, and support services to succeed in the labor market and to match employers with the skilled workers they need to compete in the global economy.

WRIS: the Wage Record Interchange System, an automated system for facilitating the exchange of wage data between participating states for the purpose of assessing the performance of individual training providers and state employment and training programs; preparing and submitting reports to the USDOL regarding the performance of workforce investment programs and activities authorized under the WIA, or under other statutory provisions that are referenced in the WIA as authorizing programs identified as One-Stop partners; supporting research and evaluation efforts and for other purposes allowed under law. WRIS operations ceased on December 31, 2019.

WRIS2: the voluntary, opt-in, automated wage record interchange system for facilitating the exchange of wage data between participating WRIS2 states for the purposes stated in Section I of the WRIS2 Data Sharing Agreement. WRIS2 operations ceased on December 31, 2019.

WRIS and WRIS2 Clearinghouse: the location of the central processing operation through which WRIS Requests, Queries, Replies and Results are processed. The WRIS Clearinghouse is operated by the Operations Contractor. As of January 1, 2020, all Queries for Wage Data for all applicable programs are processed through the State Wage Interchange System (SWIS) Clearinghouse.