

Group Objectives (Handout 1)

Proviso

Commerce must convene an advisory committee to provide assistance with the development of the study, comprised of: individuals from the public and private sector with expertise in labor law; individuals from business and industry; representatives of labor unions, and nonprofit organizations promoting economic security and educational opportunity.

The report must include information on the needs of workers earning income as independent contractors including sources of income, the amount of income derived from independent work, and a discussion of the benefits provided to such workers.

Proposed Norms

- Diverse backgrounds and perspectives are valued and heard
- Respectful dialogue is practiced
- Disagreements are welcomed as learning opportunities
- Constructive criticism is provided to improve project outcomes

Proposed Rules

- One person speaks at a time
- Side conversations are kept to a minimum
- Meetings start on-time and end on-time
- Everyone has the opportunity to speak
- Decisions that impact project timelines and scope are made by Commerce and informed by member participation
- Project outcomes and study objectives are decided through group consensus

Process, roles and responsibilities

Commerce

- Convenes and facilitates committee in-person and videoconference meetings
- Distributes meeting materials in advance and records meeting minutes
- Communicates final outcomes

Members

- Participate in committee meetings, procurement and vetting activities
- Provide input and feedback on scope and objectives, research questions and design, and strategies to meet project deadlines and procure needed expertise
- Commit time and resources as needed to meet study objectives

Process

- Aims to foster member participation and balance project needs
- Opposing viewpoints are addressed through group deliberation to inform project outcomes
- Members are empowered to suggest alternative processes for group consideration
- The committee will strive for group consensus. In the event consensus cannot be reached, Commerce will make the final decision. In making such decisions, Commerce will capture the concerns of the advisory members.

Study objectives and strategies

- Produce baseline information about the prevalence and types of independent contract work performed in the state, including sources of income and benefits, benefits coverage, and number of hours worked utilizing federal administrative tax records, Census household survey data, and state administrative records on the number of sole proprietorship filings; define survey population
- Identify and implement research methods to capture differences in worker economic data relative to sources of income, worker status, income level, location, job characteristics, and worker demographics
- Utilize existing state definitions of independent contract work to inform research process and design as determined by advisory members
- Compile information on current state of research and policy initiatives regarding worker classification and benefits portability; include crosswalk of state-level worker classification tests