



INDIANA
DEPARTMENT OF
WORKFORCE
DEVELOPMENT

- Mandatory
- Informational
- Best Practice
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TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Date: February 9, 2021

Contact: Steve Gault

Section/Document Number: Workforce Programs, WF 20.2

Topic: REVISED NHE-DW Grant Implementation Guidance

Revision:

Attachment A, Section 3, **Long Term Unemployed Eligibility Clarification** is revised in response to questions regarding eligibility.

Purpose

To provide clarification on the following areas:

- Approvable training related to DWD's Flame rating system;
- Expenditures for Employer Informational Seminars; and
- Eligibility of certain individuals under the Long Term Unemployed Category.

Background:

DWD was awarded a National Health Emergency Dislocated Worker Grant to address the opioid crisis in Indiana in July of 2019. The purpose of the grant is to provide employment and training services to Dislocated Workers to help them return to employment.

Content:

Over the past few weeks, the Workforce Programs Unit has received several implementation questions. The inquiries have been addressed and organized as a Frequently Asked Questions table (Attachment A).

Effective Date February 9, 2021

Inquiries For questions or more information contact:

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Attachment A
NHE-DW Frequently Asked Questions

Question/Clarification Request	Response
<p>1.Flame Rating Requirement Health Care Workers and Community Health Care Worker Certified Recovery Specialists occupations are central to opioid addiction recovery but do not meet the 3 Flame or higher rating under the Flame Rating Methodology. Can these positions be funded under the grant?</p>	<p>DWD has determined that the Community Health Care Workers and Community Health Care Worker Certified Recovery Specialists occupations will be an exception to the Flame level requirement and are approved for grant funded training.</p>
<p>2. Educational Seminars/Webinars Can grant funding be used for employer educational seminars and other employer activities? Can Funding be used for community meetings and webinars?</p>	<p>The Specialized Business services section of the grant includes the following language: <i>“...a critical piece of support to employers will be sharing of best practices related to working with a population deeply impacted by the opioid crisis and substance use disorder. This project will help bridge a gap for employers by providing guidance in this space.”</i></p> <p>As these seminars and other employer educational activity fall under this definition, they are fundable as long as the expenses are generally allowable under WIOA.</p> <p>Note: Your contract with DWD and the DOL Grant award both require prior authorization for in person meetings, seminars, webinars, etc. requiring expending grant funds, signing a contract for space (paid or non-paid), and/ or using USDOL’s name or logo in an official capacity i.e. speaking on their behalf. Send request for approval to the Grant Manager, Steve Gault.</p>

<p>3. Long Term Unemployed Eligibility Clarification <u>REVISED</u> <u>2/4/21</u> Scenarios:</p> <p>A. What if someone hasn't worked in the last year but has been in college?. Can the time in school be counted in the calculation of unemployed 27 or more weeks in aggregate out of the past 52 weeks?</p> <p>B. Can a person be eligible under the long-term unemployed category if they were unemployed 27 or more weeks in aggregate out of the past 52 weeks but are currently working?</p>	<p>There is a separate category for Long Term Unemployed in this grant but it's within the context of DW services. Specifically:</p> <p>A. No. A full-time student is not typically considered unemployed because they are not looking for or available for full time employment.</p> <p>B. If a person meets the standard of being unemployed 27 or more weeks in aggregate out of the past 52 weeks and is employed at the time determination of eligibility, their employment must meet the standard of Intervening or Stop Gap Employment laid out in DWD Policy 2016-01 to be eligible. The applicable section of the policy states:</p> <p>“Intervening or stopgap Employment describes work that an individual accepts, either prior to or during participation in WIOA services, for the purpose of income maintenance because they have lost the customary work for which their training, experience, and work history qualifies them. Employment would be considered intervening or stopgap if the salary were substantially below the salary of the individual’s previous occupation and/or if they are working substantially under the skill level of their previous occupation (determined at the local level). However, intervening or stopgap employment may constitute a new primary occupation/industry in circumstances where the individual has not made any verifiable efforts to seek more permanent and appropriate employment and has been employed in intervening or stopgap employment for an extended amount of time (determined at the local level). The previous occupation or industry should be established by the individuals work history</p>

	provided in his/her application and supported with any other applicable documentation to satisfy the data validation requirements.”
Additional Eligibility Clarification. Along with the statutory eligibility of Dislocated Workers, this grant adds: “An individual temporarily or permanently laid off as a consequence of the disaster or emergency”	This category creates eligibility for individuals who are laid off but the nature of which may not fit the statutory definition of a Dislocated Worker. For example, the layoff may be temporary. However, if the layoff can be directly traced to the opioid crisis the individual may be eligible for services under the grant. Connection with the opioid crisis must be documented.