

WIOAB 03-20

DATE: September 21, 2020
TO: WIOA COVID-19 DWG Subrecipients
FROM: Danilo Cabrera, Program Manager, Workforce Administration
SUBJECT: COVID-19 National Dislocated Worker Grant (NDWG) *Danilo Cabrera*

NEW GRANT

Idaho Department of Labor received a National Dislocated Worker Grant for dislocated workers and other individuals affected by COVID-19 in the state, effective April 1, 2020 through June 30, 2022.

This grant is intended to expand the use of work-based activities at worksites designed to mitigate the impact of the pandemic. Through the COVID Work Activity, the grant can help to meet the needs of grant eligible individuals, especially dislocated workers, the long-term unemployed, and Unemployment Insurance (UI) recipients who have been profiled as likely to exhaust their benefits.

Providing employment opportunities to for dislocated workers is the primary focus of this grant, targeting *temporary* employment with approved employers in occupations that are in demand to help address humanitarian and disaster relief. Ideally, these positions would also directly relate to an individual's career goal.

PARTICIPANT ELIGIBILITY

An individual eligible to receive services through a Disaster Recovery DWG must be one of the following:

- a dislocated worker as defined at 29 U.S.C. 3102(3)(15);
- –a long-term unemployed worker;
- –permanently laid off as a consequence of the disaster; or
- –a self-employed individual who became unemployed as a result of the disaster or emergency

In addition:

- Priority of service for veterans applies to opportunities provided under this NDWG.
- TAA-eligible individuals may be eligible to participate under this NDWG.

NDWG SERVICES

The grant will allow for limited supportive services tied specifically to the work being done. Depending on the setting, that could include PPE (mask, gloves, etc.), boots, clothing, tools, etc., if the worksite doesn't already provide those. In the case of someone attending training, books and supplies may also be provided. But, again, to access the full-compliment supportive services under WIOA, co-enrollment is strongly encouraged.

NDWG funds may be used for work-based activities and occupational skills training, if additional training is necessary to adequately perform the job.

TRAINING:

Limited, short-term occupational training may be accessed when such training is the quickest avenue to re-employment, even temporarily. Training should lead to attainment of an industry recognized credential in a high demand industry or occupation. However, credential attainment alone is not required to be a part of work activity.

COVID WORK ACTIVITY:

In addition to serving as the program operator, the Idaho Department of Labor Workforce Services Division will also provide direct services to participants and worksites/employers, as grant funds may be used to pay participants as perform necessary duties at various locations to help combat COVID across the state.

- Pay rates for positions supported by the grant will be established based upon the worksite's current pay schedule and analysis of local labor market activity. Wages to be paid under the grant should be at least \$11/hr.
- Although a COVID Work Activity should not exceed six (6) months or 1,040 hours, there may be some instances where an extension may be allowed. Career planners should contact the Grants Management Unit near the end of a term to determine the possibility of an extension.
- Employers must be approved prior to participating in grant activities so that the grant may fund temporary employment for eligible individuals in the following categories:
 - Clean up and recovery efforts
 - Employment related to the delivery of appropriate humanitarian assistance in the immediate aftermath of the disaster or emergency
- Applications are available for employers to complete and should be sent directly to the WIOA/TAA mailbox. Career planners can also facilitate the

process by offering employer's assistance in completing the application. Once approved, the worksite's name will be placed on a list that will be available on EPIC so career planners can review to ensure the worksite is okay to receive participant referrals. This will be done on a first come, first served basis until all the grant funds have been tapped.

- Prohibited employers: COVID activities may not take place with private employers, as the work activities must be for the benefit of the public.

SYSTEM CODES

Staff Time Charges

Time code for this grant 275-690. This will also serve as the activity code for grant services.

Fund Number

When entering COVID DWG enrollments in *IdahoWorks*, please use the following fund number:

* Training Agent ID

* Participant Group

* Status

Total Cost

When writing vouchers

For 04 purposes, please include the following codes when completing vouchers under this grant:

J Program
 Q Type
 820 Project (until further notice)

WIOA Fund Number			
*Program	*Type	*Activity	*Project
<input type="text" value="J"/>	<input type="text" value="Q"/>	<input type="text" value="820"/>	<input type="text"/>

For work activities

Please note that the new Fringe Rate for work activities is now 9.475% of a participant's wage/salary. You must ensure that this is accounted for when budgeting for this activity.

QUESTIONS / CONTACTS

If you have any questions, please contact WIOA/TAA Mailbox.