

**Job-Driven National Emergency Grant
Frequently Asked Questions and Answers
Updated January 29, 2015**

ELIGIBILITY

Q: Are youth, age 18 and over, eligible for services under the grant?

A: Only if the youth has worked and is now an eligible dislocated worker (with preference for long-term unemployed individuals & claimants who are likely to exhaust benefits).

Q: Are youth, age 18 and over, that have never worked eligible for services from the grant?

A: No. An individual who has never worked is not eligible for this grant.

Q: Can participants who only qualify as WIA Adults receive services under the JD NEG?

A: No. The participants must be qualified as WIA Dislocated Workers.

Q: Define long term unemployed for purposes of this grant.

A: Unemployed for at least 27 weeks in aggregate since the recession of December 2007 - June 2009. The weeks do not have to be continuous, just aggregated. (This means they must have been laid off during the recession period or after the recession period and have a total of 27 weeks of unemployment since then.)

Q: Are the candidates that are selected for REA automatically qualified for the JD-NEG Grant as likely to exhaust their benefits?

A: No. REA claimants have not been determined as likely to exhaust their benefits. They have to be determined qualified like any other applicant.

Q: Are the candidates that are selected for PREP automatically qualified for the JD-NEG Grant as likely to exhaust their benefits?

A: Yes. PREP claimants have already been determined likely to exhaust their benefits.

Q: Can individuals who have taken an income maintenance job be served under this grant?

A: Yes, provided it does not terminate unemployment benefits and the individual meets all other requirements.

Q: Can we use self-attestations to document long-term unemployed?

A: To verify that an individual is a dislocated worker, self-attestation may not be used. Once an individual has been determined to be a dislocated worker, and proper documentation has been secured, it may be necessary to obtain additional documentation, supplemented as necessary by a client's self-attestation, to establish the length of unemployment experienced by the client since the start of the Great Recession.

ASSESSMENT & CASE MANAGEMENT

Q: What are case management tools?

A: Case management tools are those career exploration tools you would need to help analyze a job seekers current knowledge, skills, education, aptitudes, etc. and match that assessment to occupations. Examples include CHOICES, TORQ, O'NET, etc.

Q: Will the state purchase TORQ for each region?

A: Yes. Each participating region has unlimited access to TORQ for the duration of the contract.

Q: How many TORQ licenses will each region receive?

A: Individual licenses will not be issued since this an Internet-based service. Each region participating in the JD NEG will have unlimited access to the software.

TRAINING ACTIVITIES

Q: The NFA Reporting Instructions indicate the regions may not serve customers who are already receiving *training* services under the WIA. So are WIA DWs *enrolled in only core and/or intensive services* who are also eligible for the NEG grant allowed to be served? If so then they already have a WIA application that will need to be tweaked to add the Grant 469 JD NEG. Is this correct?

A: Yes. Note that priority is to be given to members of one of the targeted groups (long-term unemployed & likely to exhaust benefits); and the grant services must be directed to their becoming employed in one of the targeted sectors.

Q: What are the limits on OJT?

A: WIA statute and regulations lay out a variety of requirements. This information is summarized in the [WIA Resource Guide – Adults and Dislocated Workers](#).

- Length of training is limited by 1) the skill requirements for the position and 2) the jobseeker's prior experience and skill level and how those match the skill requirements of the position. For the former, the O*NET occupations' job zones should inform the determination of the time needed to complete the training, along with an analysis of the actual skills to be taught during the OJT. For the latter, a skills gap analysis should be conducted.
- Florida has a waiver that allows wage reimbursement on a sliding scale up to 90% depending on the size of the employer's workforce. There is a wage cap that is currently \$19.78 per hour.

Q: Can a jobseeker do work experience and OJT with the same employer?

A: Yes, as long as the employer is in one of the targeted sectors, and the work experience is meant to help the participant re-engage in the workforce. The participant's time in work experience should be taken into account in determining the time needed for OJT, as well as prior education and employment experience.

Q: Are we limited to placing individuals only in industries and occupations we identified in the JD NEG narrative? (Can we place individuals into OJT, work experience and direct placements in industries and occupations beyond those targeted in the JD NEG narrative?)

A: Yes. Regions are limited to placing individuals only in those industries and occupations identified in the JD NEG narrative. Additional industries will be added to the list via modifications to the grant narrative. Regions can and have submitted additional industries and occupations to be added to the grant narrative. We will continue to assess the need to update these over the next few months and make the necessary adjustments.

SECTOR STRATEGIES/EMPLOYER SERVICES

Q: How do regions sell long-term unemployed to employers?

A: Examples of strategies include: direct sale of pre-qualified individuals emphasizing experience, reliability, recent training, ready to work capacity; presentations at employer meetings that include current and/or past LTU to demonstrate those qualities; use of work-based training. It will be helpful if regions share strategies that work with each other.

FUNDING

Q: What is the estimated cost per person?

A: This will depend on the blend of services provided by each RWB.

Q: Can WIA formula funds be used to supplement this grant?

A: Yes

Q: Do we need to document how funds are blended?

A: Expenditures need to be reported to OSMIS and activities tracked in EFM based on the source of funding.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Q: What is the name of the book you referred to?

A: *Connecting People to Work* edited by Maureen Conway and Robert P. Giloth; *Workforce Intermediaries for the Twenty-first Century* edited by Robert P. Giloth, and *Why Good People Can't Get Jobs* by Peter Cappelli.

Q: What is the link to the website with the video about long-term unemployed?

A: <http://vimeo.com/66873676>.