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Final Guidance

Modification of the National Emergency Grant, Long Term Unemployed Definition

OF INTEREST TO

Workforce Florida, Inc. (WFI), Regional Workforce Boards (RWBs), service providers, and other entities engaged in implementing Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Programs.

SUBJECT

The definition of “long-term unemployed”.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this issuance is to provide a new definition for the term “long-term unemployed” for purposes of participant eligibility for National Emergency Grant (NEG) Disaster projects.

BACKGROUND

A primary component of an NEG Disaster project is to create temporary jobs to assist in the clean-up and restoration efforts after a natural disaster. Individuals eligible to participate in an NEG Disaster projects (WIA Sec. 173(d) (2)) are:

- (1) Workers who have been temporarily or permanently dislocated as a result of the disaster;
- (2) Eligible dislocated workers as defined in the WIA Sec. 101(9); or
- (3) Individuals who are long term unemployed.

States are allowed to define the third criteria. The state of Florida originally defined long term unemployed as, “a person unemployed 15 of the previous 26 weeks”. Based on input from the regional workforce boards this definition has been changed.

PROGRAM GUIDANCE

Workforce Florida, Inc. has modified the definition of the term “long term unemployed” used to determine participant eligibility for an NEG Disaster project. The new definition is **“a person unemployed six of the previous 13 weeks”**. This changed definition is effective as of the date of this issuance.