

1. Program Requirements

[Training and Employment Guidance Letter \(TEGL\) WIOA No. 12-19](#) contains the program requirements for this award.

a. Coordination with Federal Agencies

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) - In accordance with WIOA Section 170 (d)(1)(A), funds made available for Disaster DWGs “shall be used in coordination with the Federal Emergency Management Agency, as applicable,” in order to ensure non-duplication and maintenance of effort. Recipients of DWG funding must coordinate the activities funded under this grant with those funded by and/or performed under the auspices of FEMA if FEMA has issued an appropriate declaration.

Other Federal Agencies –If another federal agency (outside of FEMA) with authority or jurisdiction over the federal response declares or otherwise recognizes an emergency or disaster that meets the definition at WIOA 170(A)(1)(B), DWG funds made available for that disaster must be used in coordination with that agency, as applicable in order to ensure non-duplication and maintenance of effort.

The grantee must have in place a plan to recover WIOA funds which have been expended for activities or services for which other funds are available. Examples include, but are not limited to: activities/resources provided by FEMA or other Federal agencies; public or private insurance; and construction workers employed by private for-profit firms whose employment is covered by other available resources.

If additional areas are declared eligible for assistance by FEMA or another Federal agency as allowable under WIOA, you may immediately begin to provide services under this grant in those counties. However, the direct recipient must notify its Federal Project Officer in writing of the inclusion of any additional areas that have been appropriately approved by the federal agencies, and include such locations in a subsequent modification

b. Eligibility

Grantees are responsible for setting appropriate policies and procedures for determining participant eligibility. The state has the authority to provide exceptions to its policies regarding the acceptable documentation local areas must collect to document participant eligibility, such as during a disaster. Such exceptions may rely on self-attestation. States eventually must collect all documentation necessary to demonstrate that each participant is eligible under 20 CFR 687.170(b).

When applying for a Disaster Recovery DWG in response to an influx of a substantial number of individuals relocating away from the disaster area, applicants must demonstrate that at least 50 individuals have relocated or evacuated from an area receiving a Federal declaration for the disaster event.

The Grantee should have a system in place to verify eligibility for individuals once better data are available. If the Grantee has such a system in place, and if a participant is later found to be ineligible, the costs incurred prior to the discovery of ineligibility will not be disallowed.

Limitations on Duration of Participation -- Participants in disaster-relief positions may be employed for a maximum of 12 months or 2,080 hours, whichever is longer. Grantees may submit a modification request to extend the period of employment for existing participants for

up to an additional 12 months, and this modification request must justify the reason for extending participants' disaster-relief employment, as required by 20 C.F.R. 687.180(b)(1) If there remains humanitarian or clean-up needs after participants reach the limits on employment duration, the state should attempt to employ new eligible individuals to continue the work at hand rather than continue the employment or re-employment of participants that have reached 12 months or 2,080 hours of disaster-relief employment.

While each disaster is different, ETA expects that most humanitarian assistance needs will resolve within 12 months of the disaster event, as disaster-affected communities rebuild, and their populations obtain permanent housing and no longer need assistance in obtaining food and clothing. When providing a justification for extending employment to 20 C.F.R. 687.180(b)(1), grantees must demonstrate that humanitarian assistance needs remain.

c. Participant Compensation

Participant Wages. The worksite employer that provides participants temporary disaster-relief employment under a Disaster Recovery DWG is required to pay the higher of the Federal, state, or local minimum wage, or the comparable rates of pay for other individuals employed in similar occupations by the same employer. In accordance with WIOA Section 181(a)(1)(A), generally, participants must be compensated at the same rates, including periodic increases, as employees who are similarly situated in similar occupations by the same employer and who have similar training, experience, and skills. Additionally, such rates must be in accordance with applicable law but in no event less than the higher of the rate specified in Section 6(a)(1) of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 206(a)(1)) or the applicable state or local minimum wage law. Where applicable, fringe benefits should be paid in accordance with the policies of the worksite employer.

The wages paid to temporary disaster-relief workers must be consistent with the wages of the supervising entity's other employees—permanent or temporary—performing the same or similar work.

d. Employment Conditions

Benefits and Working Conditions - All participants shall be provided benefits and working conditions at the same level and to the same extent as other employees working a similar length of time and doing the same type of work (WIOA Sec.

181(b)(5)). (Please see item 10f, Restrictions on Health Coverage). If the employer has different policies for temporary employees than for full-time employees, these policies may apply to these participants since the jobs under this grant are classified as temporary.

Health and Safety Standards In all DWG projects, grantees must ensure that project participants follow the same health and safety standards established under Federal and state law applicable to working conditions of permanent employees. To the extent that state workers' compensation law applies, workers' compensation shall be provided to project participants on the same basis as individuals in similar employment, as required by WIOA Section 181(b)(4). In cases in which a project participant is not covered under a state workers' compensation law, the project participant must be provided with adequate on-site medical and accident insurance for work-related activities. The grantee must also ensure that project participants receive appropriate safety training in accordance with the Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA) of 1970 and assure safe working conditions. For more information, contact

the OSHA field office. A listing of OSHA field offices is available at <http://www.osha.gov/html/RAmap.html>.

e. Worksite Selection and Work on Private Property

Disaster-relief worksites must be located in the geographic disaster area covered by the qualifying declaration for the Disaster Recovery DWG (a disaster or emergency declaration under the Stafford Act or other Federal agency's declaration of a disaster or emergency of national significance).

Grantees must give the highest priority to clean-up of the disaster area's most severely damaged public facilities and to the cleanup and the provision of humanitarian assistance to economically disadvantaged areas within the disaster area. To the extent feasible, administering funds according to these priorities must be in coordination with any projects administered by emergency management agencies, as described in this document within the section entitled "Coordination with Emergency Management Agencies."

Projects may perform work on private property only under these circumstances:

1. The work must be intended to remove health and safety hazards to the larger community or to address or alleviate specific economic or employment-related impacts of the disaster, such as clean-up work needed for disaster-affected employers to resume operation;
2. The activities necessary to remove health and safety hazards on private lands or around homes or other structures may only return the land or structure(s) to a safe and habitable level, and not improve the original land or structure(s);
3. The project prioritizes service to older individuals and individuals with disabilities; and,
4. Grantees must not use Disaster Recovery DWG funds to cover the cost of materials to do repairs.

Prior approval of the grant officer is required before any disaster-relief employment work on private property.

f. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS)

In order to ensure compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and to protect valuable habitats and endangered species, all disaster projects where participants will be entering or impacting natural areas must ensure that activities are not negatively affecting endangered species or their habitats. NEPA and ESA require NDWG projects to either affirm to FWS that there are no endangered species or habitats within the project area, or to consult with FWS to mitigate negative impacts where there are endangered species or protected habitats before beginning any work in those areas. For more information, contact a local FWS field office (www.fws.gov/offices/).