



Higher Education Coordinating Commission Office of Workforce Investments Policy	
Subject: Governor's Reserve Funds	
Focus:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> WIOA Title I <input type="checkbox"/> National DWG <input type="checkbox"/> State Grants <input type="checkbox"/> Other:
Publish Date: 02/20/2024	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> New Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Revised Policy

Overview

The Office of Workforce Investments (OWI) may reserve up to 25 percent of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Title I dislocated worker allocation for the provision of Rapid Response activities and Additional Assistance.

Policy Statement

OWI has provided a portion of the reserve to each local workforce development board (LWDB) for the provision of rapid response services in the local area. The reserve remaining at OWI is available for LWDBs for Additional Assistance Projects, Gap-Fill Projects, and Layoff Aversion Projects, and Attachment A must be completed and provided to OWI.

OWI's review and approval processes for these projects will include an analysis of current dislocated worker participant enrollment levels and analysis of dislocated worker participant enrollments that took place after July 1. The review and approval process will include analysis of all program year fund expenditures and availability.

On a case by case basis, OWI may provide funds to LWDBs who are providing extensive on-site, pre-layoff activities for a large layoff. LWDBs may submit written requests for these funds at any time, and analysis of the request and approval of the funds will be at OWI's discretion.

Additional Assistance Projects

For layoffs affecting more than 50 workers and planned participant enrollment levels of more than 25, LDWBs must apply for a National Dislocated Worker Grant (NDWG).

Additional Assistance Projects are awarded and considered on a case-by-case basis to address layoffs or closures for which adequate local funding has been confirmed to be insufficient. Additional Assistance Projects must be designed and implemented based on worker need and interest in services that has been established during pre-layoff services.

Additional Assistance Projects will not be awarded to replenish formula fund short-falls or fluctuations in dislocated worker formula funds, nor will they be made available to offset funding shortfalls because of participant carry-in from one program year to the next.

Participants in Additional Assistance Projects must be enrolled in both WIOA Title I dislocated worker program and the Additional Assistance Project, and the project must be established and tracked as a fund in the WIOA Title I participant tracking system.

Gap-Fill Projects

LWDBs that have submitted an application to the Department of Labor (DOL) for a NDWG may request Gap-Fill Project funds to provide immediate services to participants while awaiting approval of the grant and receipt of grant funds. When the NDWG is awarded, Gap-Fill Project funds must be returned to the State in

full. Participants must be enrolled in both WIOA Title I dislocated worker program and the Gap-Fill Project, and the project must be established and tracked as a fund in the WIOA Title I participant tracking system.

In the event DOL does not approve the NDWG application, OWI will conduct a review of formula-funded participant enrollment details, and all program year expenditure levels. Based on that review, OWI may decide to fund the project, or a portion of the project, on a quarterly basis, or by other means.

LWDBs which have NDWGs in place, and are awaiting subsequent funding increments, may request Gap-Fill Project funds. When the subsequent increment is awarded, the LWDB must return the Gap-Fill Project funds to the State in full.

Layoff Aversion Projects

LWDBs may request funds for Layoff Aversion Projects, including incumbent worker training. Layoff Aversion Projects which include incumbent worker training will include review of existing LWDB policies and practices prior to award determination.

Effective Date

February 20, 2024

Required Action

LWDBs must provide the complete Attachment A – Governor’s Reserve Fund Project Application to OWI for review and approval recommendation.

Contact

Questions are to be referred to hecc.owi-workforce-policy@hecc.oregon.gov.

Attachments

Attachment A – Governor’s Reserve Fund Project Application

References

WIOA Public Law Section 133 (a)(2)

WIOA Public Law Section 134 (a)(2)(A)

20 CFR 682.300 through 370

20 CFR 683.120(f)

Training and Employment Guidance Letter No. 19-16: Guidance on Services provided through the Adult and Dislocated Worker Programs under the WIOA and Wagner-Peyser Act Employment Service, as amended by Title III of WIOA, and for Implementation of the WIOA Final Rules

TEGL No. 16-21: Updated National Dislocated Worker Grant Program Guidance