

MASSACHUSETTS

# Workforce Investment Act

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**WIA Communication No. 05-73**

Policy  Information

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**To:** Chief Elected Officials  
Workforce Investment Board Chairs  
Workforce Investment Board Directors  
Title I Administrators  
Career Center Directors  
Title I Fiscal Officers  
DCS Regional Directors for Workforce Integration  
DCS Associate Directors  
DCS Field Managers

**cc:** WIA State Partners

**From:** Susan V. Lawler, Commissioner  
Division of Career Services

**Date:** September 15, 2005

**Subject:** Guidance for Assisting Katrina Evacuees

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**Purpose:** To transmit information regarding resources to guide workforce investment organizations, partners and staff in connecting individuals who identify themselves as Hurricane Katrina evacuees with appropriate services.

**Background:** The Commonwealth of Massachusetts is now serving 208 Hurricane Katrina evacuees at Camp Edwards (Camp Edwards Evacuees). The Camp Edwards Evacuees were relocated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) from Louisiana on September 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>. In addition to the Camp Edward Evacuees, other Hurricane Katrina evacuees have relocated to Massachusetts by their own means (Non-Camp Edwards Evacuees). Typically, the Non-Camp Edwards Evacuees are staying with family and/or friends, and may also be in need of federal, state and charitable assistance.

A summary of available assistance is as follows. Please refer to the attached documents for a more detailed explanation of available benefits and a listing of key service providers.

- **Federal Benefits:** To receive access to federal benefits evacuees must register with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). FEMA benefits may include: temporary housing, financial assistance for home repair, financial

assistance for home replacement and other needs such as cash assistance for necessary expenses and serious needs cause by the disaster.

- **State Benefits:** To access Massachusetts services, evacuees must obtain a temporary Massachusetts identification card (Mass. I.D.). For Camp Edwards evacuees, Mass. I.D. cards may be obtained at the Camp. Non-Camp Edwards evacuees can obtain Mass. I.D. cards at any Massachusetts Registry of Motor Vehicles office. Massachusetts state benefits may include: housing supports, nutritional supports, financial services through the Department of Transitional Assistance, medical assistance, assistance with unemployment insurance claims and job search and job placement assistance through the Massachusetts One-Stop Career Centers.
- **American Red Cross:** Evacuees can register with the American Red Cross (ARC) in order to gain access to funds to meet their immediate emergency needs. Red Cross registration will also allow access to future programs added by the ARC for Hurricane Katrina victims.
- **Disaster Recovery Center (DRC) at Camp Edwards:** Under the direction of the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA), a Disaster Recovery Center (DRC) has been established at Camp Edwards. The purpose of the DRC is to provide a “one-stop” location for federal, state and charitable services available to the Hurricane Katrina evacuees. A listing of the organizations represented at the DRC, hours and directions are provided in the attached document. *Services of the DRC are open to all Katrina evacuees, not only to Camp Edwards evacuees.*

**Action**

**Required:** Please distribute this communication, as appropriate, to assure that all workforce investment organizations, partners and staff are familiar with the information contained herein, and prepared to assist individuals or families that identify themselves as Hurricane Katrina evacuees, whether they are located at Camp Edwards or elsewhere.

**Effective:** Immediately

**References:** Attachment A: [MEMA Guidance for Assisting Katrina Clients Not Located at Camp Edwards](#)

Attachment B: [HHS Operation Helping Hands – Client Service](#)

Attachment C: [Operation Helping Hands Key Service Providers Contact Information](#)

**Inquiries:** Please email all questions to [PolicyQA@detma.org](mailto:PolicyQA@detma.org). Also, indicate Issuance number and description.

**Filing:** Please file this in your notebook of previously issued WIA Communication Series Issuances as #05-73.