

Mass Workforce Issuance

Workforce Issuance No. 07-52

Policy Information

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

cc: WIA State Partners

From: David W. Mackley, Director
Department of Workforce Development

Date: August 6, 2007

Subject: **Regional Innovation Grants**

Purpose: To notify Local Workforce Investment Boards of the opportunity to apply for NEG Regional Innovation Grants (RIGs) up to an amount of \$250,000 to initiate comprehensive, sustainable, and integrated regional planning with respect to major worker dislocation activity using the WIRED conceptual framework and principles.

Background: On April 27, 2007 the U.S. Department of Labor Employment and Training Administration (ETA) issued Training and Employment Guidance Letter No. 16-03, Change 5 (Attached) regarding the use of National Emergency Grant (NEG) funds to support regional planning activities related to major economic dislocations such as significant worker layoffs, plant closures and/or natural disasters. "Community Impact" was one of the four types of a applications identified in TEGL 16-03 (1/26/04) as appropriate for requesting NEG funds consistent with the Secretary's authority to use NEG resources when it can be clearly demonstrated that such use of these funds "will achieve a greater positive benefit for the workers and/or communities being assisted" [20 CFR 671.170(b)(5)].

The WIRED framework enhances the current approach to the use of NEG funds as a strategic solution to major worker dislocation events. It is ETA's belief that a formalized regional strategy that actively and fully engages all key players to leverage their collective resources to develop strategies that embrace a broader

focus on infrastructure, investments and talent development instead of the narrower focus on temporary services and infrastructure expansion will lead to a more effective system-wide response to unanticipated economic events.

Eligible applicants are limited to state workforce investment agencies or a multi-state agency consortium, a local WIB or a consortium of local workforce boards. Applications including multi-state regions or a consortium of local boards must clearly identify the entity designated to be the grant recipient. To qualify for RIG funds, applicants must develop the application and operate the grant in concert with other key regional stakeholders.

As with all mass layoff/plant closure events, Rapid Response funds will serve as the initial state contribution to grant activities undertaken for states that apply for a NEG Regional Innovation Grant.

Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis and will be reviewed within 30 working days. Notification of award will be made within 60 days of submission. All submissions must be made via the NEG electronic system (eSystem).

The grant period will be 18 months from the date of execution of grant documents. Requests for no-cost extensions may be approved by ETA.

Action

Required: Please assure that all appropriate individuals are apprised of the contents of this issuance and the attached TEGL No. 16-03, Change 5.

Inquiries: All inquiries should be addressed to Cathy Byrnes, NEG Manager, at Cbyrnes@detma.org or 617 626-5693