

MA Disaster Recovery Grant – NDWG / COVID-19

Q&A

Massachusetts COVID-19 Disaster Recovery Dislocated Worker Grant

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Updated as of June 2, 2020

(This Q&A is ongoing and will be updated as needed.)

Q1. Is there any provision in the grant to pay for any of the food that would be prepared as part of this initiative? Would those costs need to be supported as part of the organization's ongoing mission?

A1. The grant can only pay participant wages and related support service needs. It cannot pay for the food.

Q2. The second question relates to whether private restaurants that are currently closed due to COVID would be eligible to participate in the grant to reopen and conduct humanitarian distribution programming?

A2. There is no limitation on what type of entity may be a worksite employer. Restaurants may apply if they are providing humanitarian food distribution for which a direct correlation with the COVID-19 emergency can be demonstrated.

Q3. Are dishwashers included?

A3. Yes, dishwashers can potentially be included as long as the organization can demonstrate that it meets the humanitarian effort.

Q4. There seems to be a lot of interest in the grant. What is the expected number of positions available?

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A4. 200 positions will be available across the state with the potential of more positions should additional funding become available.

Q5. Do you know when the work sites will be selected so that we can start promoting this opportunity to targeted customers?

A5. All work site will be selected by June 14th and then you can start promoting to targeted customers.

Q6. Will pay rate, wages, benefits, and background checks be supported through the grant?

A6. Depending on the worksite need, wages, benefits, and background checks can be supported through the grant. The rates of pay will be in accordance with the regular rate of pay for an employee normally performing the work.

Q7. Will food be prepared on a worksite?

A7. It depends on the service provided by worksite.

Q8. Will the Worksite receive any administrative funding to take on this role? Our municipalities are telling us that they are hearing from their non-profits that they are very short of cash and many in a layoff situation. To take on the worksite role at this time would require some financial assistance.

A8. No. The grant funds will support only participant wages at the organizations (along with support services, e.g., masks, gloves, etc.) It cannot pay for administrative funding for the worksite.

Q9. Can we get a copy of the entire application? The form on the website doesn't allow you to see all of the questions without filling in the form. It would be very helpful to see all the questions that the application asks.

A9. You can read all the questions prior to beginning the application.

Click [here](#) to go to the Massachusetts COVID-19 Disaster Recovery Dislocated Worker Grant website. Once on the website go to the application, open it and paste the following URL into your browser to view the application questions.

URL to view application questions: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1uAP_ucEQe-xvJlPz44UdkSxZns9QnAvhrwzfJwJ_9QU/edit?usp=sharing [HYPERLINK](#)

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["https://docs.google.com/document/d/1uAP_ucEQe-xvJlPz44UdkSxZns9QnAvhrwzfJwJ_9QU/edit?usp=sharing"](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1uAP_ucEQe-xvJlPz44UdkSxZns9QnAvhrwzfJwJ_9QU/edit?usp=sharing)

Q10. Is it possible to charge a nominal amount for the food that is served, of course based on the demographics of the people receiving the meals?

A10. If this is a normal practice at the site, charging a fee for food served is a worksite decision and not a provision of the grant.

Q11. Community Action of Pioneer Valley operates a social interest staffing agency called Harmon Personnel. Is it possible for them to contract with the State to hire staff under this program or does it all have to be contracted with SnapChef?

A11. The current model that will be used for the grant is to contract with SnapChef to hire, train, and place food service personnel at organizations that have been selected as approved worksites.

Q12. We could see need for a CDL B driver, a van driver/warehouse associate, and warehouse associates. Might the candidate pool have these skillsets?

A12. Yes. Please complete the Massachusetts COVID-19 Disaster Recovery Dislocated Worker Grant application and list under the question, "Which professional certifications are needed for new hires for this project?".

Q13. What is the time period the grant covers? According to this it is 8 weeks, but then there is an extension possible to year end. However, the slide deck attached mentions Period of Performance to March 31, 2022. Any further clarification is helpful.

A13. The time period the grant covers or the Period of Performance is April 10, 2020 – March 31, 2022 is defined by the Department of Labor. The initial operating period of the grant will be for 8 weeks with an option for extension in accordance with grant resource availability and demonstrated humanitarian food service distribution need.

Q14. These are temp positions but could we hire them at the end of the grant period if it is before 3/2022?

A14. Yes. The hiring of temporary employees is encouraged. Please note the grant only supports temporary hires and does not support permanent hires.

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Q15. How soon are candidates available?

A15. Candidates will be recruited for and referred to available positions when the worksites have been approved and worksite agreements are in place. We anticipate candidates being available by mid-June.

Q16. Would we be able to interview the candidates?

A16. Candidates for the positions must register at a MassHire Career Center and will be referred to SnapChef to be matched to a worksite. Snapchef will work with organizations who wish to interview candidates.

Q17. What screenings would the candidates go through i.e. CORI, driving record checks, etc.

A17. Candidates will go through necessary screenings as required by the worksite. SnapChef conducts a 6 point screening process - Screenings may include CORI, driving record checks, etc.

Q18. I received the MassHire Humanitarian Food Relief Project grant and am wondering if this applies to school districts that are already serving meals.

A18. If your need is for labor that you do not have, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we strongly encourage you to fill out an application.